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28 January 1977 35p

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Trade and Industry

28 January 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Employees should have the right to be represented on top policy boards of the largest companies in the private sector. This is recommended by a majority report of the Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy. We summarise the majority and the minority reports.

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Home news

National survey of accidents in the home

A national survey of accidents in the home is under way. This was announced by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, when addressing the annual reception of the British Standards Institution's consumer standards advisory committee on Monday.

'The national home accident surveillance system, foreshadowed in my department's report "Collection of Information on Accidents in the Home" is now working, and collection of information started this month in 20 hospitals,' Mr Fraser said.

'By mid-1977 the safety research section of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection will have built up sufficient data to provide detailed information related to home accidents such as types of accidents, products involved, place of accident and age-groups most at risk. It will be the first time such data have been available in this country and indeed, with the exception of the United States, the first time they have been available anywhere in the world.

'I should remind you that almost a quarter of a million people have died in home accidents since the last war. Considerable interest has been shown by other countries; a report has been submitted to OECD and the Scandinavian countries are introducing a pilot scheme based largely on ours.

'Information obtained from the report of the feasibility study has already been of value in the deliberations of some BSI technical committees, has been helpful in deciding on the provisions in the proposed regulations for perambulators and push-chairs, and has provided the basic information from which more detailed research into suspected child poisoning was undertaken.

'Compiled on a national basis, such information should be of correspondingly greater benefit. It will, of course, be available to BSI and to CSAC so that it can be taken into account in considering the content of new or revised safety standards. In addition, it will be of considerable value in other related areas, for example: in indicating those areas where further detailed research is needed; in helping to establish priorities for the work of DPCP's consumer safety unit; in influencing the planning of all concerned with the promotion of home safety and the preparation of related publicity material; and in providing quantifiable information for medical authorities, research organisations, manufacturers and others concerned with consumer safety.

'I turn now to the green paper on consumer safety. When the Consumer Protection Act was introduced in 1961 it provided, for the first time, the means to make regulations specifically directed to the safety of any class of consumer goods on general sale to the public. The development and refinement of consumers' requirements – not least the right to expect that all goods on open sale should be reasonably safe when properly used for their intended purpose – have, however, exposed shortcomings and inadequacies in the 1961 act.

'These were outlined in the green paper on consumer safety, published last year, and a number of proposals for strengthening and improving the present law and procedures were put forward for public consideration. A wide range of bodies, representing virtually every aspect of industry, local government and consumers' organisations, commented on the proposals. I am particularly grateful for the thoughtful and helpful comments received both from the CSAC and, of course, the BSI. Standards play a vital part in the design and production of safe consumer goods and in the formulation and develoment of regulations where these are necessary to provide statutory support. All the comments received are being studied currently by an inter-departmental working party. Following their deliberations, the consultation process will be continued.

'It is, of course, important to take all the various factors into account in considering the content of the proposed new legislation. One of these is the need to ensure as far as possible that the legislation represents a balance between safety in consumer goods and the economic costs of securing it. I expect that firm proposals for the new legislation will be published later this year, possibly in the form of a white paper, and a bill will be introduced into parliament thereafter, as soon as the legislative timetable will allow.'

Nine government factories for Hull

Nine advance factory units are to be built for the Department of Industry on the Sutton Fields Industrial Estate, Hull. Four of these form a block of terrace units totalling some 1,000m² (11,000 sq ft), another two terrace units form a block totalling 1,000m² (11,000 sq ft) and the other factories comprise two units each of 900m² (10,000 sq ft) and one unit of 2,250m² (25,000 sq ft).

A contract worth nearly £700,000, which includes site development works, has been awarded by the English Industrial Estates Corporation to R. G. Carter (Humberside) Ltd, of Hull. Architects are Parker and Rosner of Hull and quantity surveyors are E. C. Harris and Partners, also of Hull. The premises should be ready for occupation during September. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be made to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds (tel. Leeds (0532) 443171).

Advance factory in Bradford

A 900m² (10,000 sq ft) advance factory for the Department of Industry is being built on the Euroway Industrial Estate, Bradford by the English Industrial Estates Corporation.

A contract worth about £118,000 has been awarded to John Radcliffe and Sons Ltd of Huddersfield. Architects are Abbey and Hanson Rowe and Partners of Huddersfield and the quantity surveyors are Turner and Townsend of Leeds.

The premises should be ready for occupation during July. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be made to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds (tel. Leeds 0532) 443171).

Expansion at Bromborough . . .

Kelvinator Ltd have taken occupation of an advance factory of about 2250m² built for the Department of Industry by the English Industrial Estates Corporation at New Chester Road, Bromborough, Merseyside.

Kelvinator Ltd, who manufacture a range of domestic electrical appliances including refrigerators, deep freezers and ice cream cabinets already lease premises of 29,264m² at New Chester Road. The company requires the

new factory for expansion and the introduction of new lines of products.

Additional workers have already been recruited because of expansion and a further 50 jobs are expected to be created within the next six months. During the next two years when production has built up, a further 200 jobs should be provided at Bromborough.

. . . and at Bridgend

About 80 new jobs should be provided by an extension to a factory at Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan. The Welsh Development Agency will build an extra 2,211m² on to the factory occupied by Cargo Van Equipment Ltd on the Bridgend Industrial Estate. The extension is expected to be completed in September this year.

NCB examines four possible sites for massive Belvoir coalfield

Four possible sites for a new coalfield at the Vale of Belvoir are being examined by the National Coal Board. The field covers an area of 90 sq miles between Nottingham, Grantham and Melton Mobray.

Revised estimates of the coal reserves in and around the vale now amount to 500 million tons. This would make Belvoir the largest coalfield in terms of recoverable reserves yet found by the National Coal Board. Reserves are sufficient for an annual output greatly in excess of 3 million tons.

The board feels that a single mine is unlikely to be the best way of realising the potential of the coalfield, either from mining or environmental considerations.

Investigations are now being concentrated on four possible sites which are close to working or disused railway routes. The board is awaiting detailed studies of the sites before considering submitting applications to the local planning authorities. The sites are

1 Langar, Notts., where several industrial concerns are already established near a former wartime airfield.
2 Hose, Leics., a site about 1¼ miles from the village as recommended by consultants before the size and extent of the coalfield had been established.
3 Asfordby, Leics., near a heavy industrial area occupied by the British Steel Corporation.
4 Saltby, Leics., a site north-east of the village and north of a disused airfield.

The board will await the detailed study of these sites before giving further consideration to the questions of size, type, timing and location of any mining schemes and the possibility of submitting applications to the local planning authorities.

It will be for the board to decide if and when to seek planning permission to mine, but the ultimate decision on any application the board may make will rest with local and national government who will naturally consider all the interests and factors involved.

Chancellor's statement on $1.5 billion syndicated credit

A syndicated credit of $1.5 billion has been negotiated for the government on 'the best terms that have been achieved in the market for a comparable operation since the HMG loan of 1974.'

The statement was made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, on Monday in a written reply to a parliamentary question.

'Although our external financial position and prospect is now greatly improved, we still face a period of external deficit,' the chancellor said. 'Moreover, our official reserves have for long been very low in relation both to the scale of our external transactions and by international standards.

'As I indicated to the House on 11 January, we do not intend to meet our financing needs on the basis of any build-up of potentially volatile external holdings of sterling and this makes it important to strengthen the reserves on a secure medium-term basis, as and when we are able to do so on acceptable terms.

'In this situation, the Bank of England has negotiated on behalf of Her Majesty's Government a syndicated credit of $1.5 billion. The lenders are led by a group of major British, American and German banks. The loan will have an average life of nearly six years and final repayment will be made in seven years.

'Interest will be payable at the appropriate inter-bank rate in the Euro-dollar market in London plus a margin of ⅞ per cent for the first two years and 1 per cent thereafter. These and other aspects of the terms are very satisfactory in present market conditions; they are the best terms that have been achieved in the market for a comparable operation since the HMG loan of 1974.

'In my statement on 15 December, I referred to my intention to strengthen the reserves with $500 million offered in the form of short-term swaps by the US Treasury and Federal Reserve. In the light of the improved reserves position on the basis of the first drawing made from the International Monetary Fund and with the prospect of further strengthening of the reserves over the next few months as this new market loan is drawn down, I have now decided that no drawings should at present be made on these swaps. With the agreement of the American authorities they will, however, remain available for the time being on a stand-by basis, alongside the parallel $350 million facility with the Bundesbank.'

Transport of plutonium nitrate – 'satisfactory'

Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said on 24 January that the government was satisfied with the safety measures at present in force regarding the transportation of platonium nitrate between Dounreay and Windscale.

In reply to parliamentary questions from Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire) and Max Madden (Sowerby) about security risks, environmental hazards and safeguards, Mr Eadie said:

'We are satisfied with the precautions currently taken over the transport of plutonium nitrate. Movements of this material, as of other radioactive substances, are made in accordance with safety regulations made under the Radioactive Substances Act 1948. It would not be in the public interest to give details of movements of this material, nor of the security precautions taken.

'As with all movements of radioactive materials strict safety and security arrangements are, and will continue to be made; these arrangements are kept under continuing review. The AEA are considering, in consultation with departments concerned, the best arrangements for transporting from Dounreay to Windscale the larger quantities of plutonium which will arise in future with the operation of the PFR and its associated reprocessing plant.'

British Rail publications on freight

Two new publications have been produced by British Rail to tell planners about the importance of railways in meeting the present and future transport needs of industry. The booklets, 'Planning for Rail' and 'Design, Construction and Finance of Rail Connections' are being issued to all local planning authorities, members of parliament, principal users of transport and organisations interested in transport and environmental issues.

'Planning for Rail' points out that although much of the freight traffic on roads is not suitable to rail transport, a good proportion could go by rail – nearly 7,000 million tonne-miles, representing 20 per cent of all tonne-miles in heavy vehicles. The booklet describes the various activities of rail freight in providing a specialist service to industry, particularly in moving materials in bulk.

Traffic described includes the 4,000 weekly trains run for single customers, the multi-customer trains for lorry-sized loads, ferry trains which cross the Channel to Europe, and container trains run for Freightliners.

Advantages of using private sidings are described, and the associated booklet, 'Design,

Construction and Finance of Rail Connections' provides information on government grants available under section 8 of the Railways Act of 1974.

Companies Act 1976: entry into force of section 33

Under the provisions of the Companies Act 1976 (Commencement) Order 1976, certain provisions of the Companies Act 1976 were brought into effect on 24 January 1977.

The main provision implemented in the order is section 33, which clarified the meaning of paragraph 6 of the fourth schedule to the Companies Act 1948. The fourth schedule sets out requirements for the content of a company's prospectuses but doubt has recently arisen over the interpretation of paragraph 6, which *inter alia* states that a prospectus must show the amount payable on application and allotment on each share. Section 33 of the new act (which is now in force) makes it clear that the expression 'amount payable' in paragraph 6 of the fourth schedule means the total amount payable (including any premium) and not merely the amount payable in respect of the nominal value of the shares in question.

The order also implements part of the second schedule to the new act, and thereby makes a similar clarification to the meaning of 'the amount . . . paid or due and payable' in section 52(1) (a) of the Companies Act 1948. The latter section deals with the content of a company's return of allotments.

The other provision of the new act implemented by the order are exclusively technical and consequential.

Most of the remaining provisions of the Companies Act 1976 are expected to be implemented in 1977.

Edmund Dell's statement on Bullock Committee Report

The government response to the report of the Bullock Committee on Industrial Democracy (see summary on following pages) was made in the House of Commons by Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, on 26 January.

The government proposed to bring forward legislative proposals on industrial democracy in the current parliamentary session, stated Mr Dell.

Before framing the proposals consultations with the TUC and the CBI would be undertaken on the basis of recommendations in the majority report of the committee.

Mr Dell said that the government was committed to a radical extension of industrial democracy by representation of the work force on company boards and to the essential role of trade unions in the process. The minority report would not be consistent with this approach.

Legislative proposals would also cover companies in which the government have a shareholding. The government had also been considering the development of industrial democracy in nationalised industries and had decided that employees should be given the right to representation at board level.

The government was also consulting unions and management about employee participation in central and local government.

Lord Bullock, chairman of the Industrial Democracy Committee, issued a personal statement on 26 January. The statement is reproduced verbatim.

I do not think anything could better demonstrate the importance of the subject of our inquiry or the widespread interest in it than the remarkable amount of publicity and discussion the report has received before publication. This does not surprise me. For in all the European countries (and there are already seven, with others moving towards it) where employees' representatives have been given a place on company boards, the first publication of such proposals have led to similar controversy and to forecasts of disaster from the employers.

In every case legislation has been necessary to introduce the changes required and in every case, once the changes have been made, the opposition has died away, the fears have proved to be exaggerated and both management and unions have found advantage in the new arrangements. I do not know what action the government will take on our report but of one thing I am certain: that the question of employees' representation has been placed on the agenda of British politics and will not be easily removed.

I spent the year 1976 listening to and reading the opinions of, literally, hundreds of people on this subject. I have been struck by the small number who were opposed to industrial democracy in principle or who did not accept – at least in private – that it was bound to come. The questions which concerned them were not Whether, but How and When: 'the chronology of change' as one employers' representative put it.

These are important questions on which it is possible to hold different views. The advantage of the majority report is that it provides a coherent attempt to provide a comprehensive and practical set of answers to them. The report starts from the assumption of a mixed economy and it is my firm belief that nothing will do as much to guarantee the continuation and increased efficiency of such a mixed economy as change along the lines we have proposd.

Most people would agree that this country's situation would be very different if we could draw out more initiative, create a greater sense of commitment and tap more of the unused potential of those who are employed in our manufacturing and service industries. The majority report argues that the only way to do this in the long run is by giving them a greater opportunity to take part in making decisions about the undertakings in which they are employed and a greater share of the responsibility for them instead of leaving both the decisions and the responsibility to management alone. In practice we agree that, to begin with, participation will have more impact for most people, in terms of change in their working lives, at levels below the board but we are convinced that representation on the board is indispensable if participation is to be – and be seen to be – something more than a slogan or a gimmick.

Most members of the committee were at one time or another attracted by the two-tier structure which the minority report recommends. I hope that everyone interested will read the first part of chapter 8 which explains why the majority of us turned away from it. We recognise that a line has to be drawn between framing and implementing policy but we believe that this is a balance which each company should continue to enjoy the freedom to work out for itself rather than being made to follow a single pattern imposed on it by legislation, as the minority report proposes.

As an historian, specially interested in the history of the present century, I am sure that it is a mistake to view changes of the sort we are discussing in too short a perspective, thinking only of the next few months or even the next two or three years. My own belief is that we are at the beginning of a change which will spread to all the countries of western Europe and is comparable with the Managerial Revolution earlier in this century which transferred the effective control of companies from the shareholders to those employees who manage the business. I believe that this second great change of the twentieth century will lead to the representatives of all sections of employees, and not just those employed in management, sharing in the responsibility for the undertaking they work in – and that by the end of the century it will seem as natural that this should be so as it does now that the management, and no longer the owners of a business, its shareholders, should make the decisions.

For this reason I hope particularly that the younger generation in management and the trade unions will read the report for themselves and make up their own minds about its proposals. For it is their world, the world of the last quarter of the twentieth century, we are talking about and it is they who will have the responsibility for making a success of it.

Bullock report on industrial democracy

The report of the Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy, under the chairmanship of Lord Bullock, (HMSO Cmnd 6706, price £3.00) was published on 26 January.

A majority of the committee, including the chairman, recommended that employees should have the right to be represented on the top policy boards of the largest companies in the private sector.

The majority report – signed by Lord Bullock and six members, Professor George Bain, Clive Jenkins, Jack Jones, David Lea, Professor K. W. Wedderburn and Nicholas Wilson – proposes that:

1 Where this right is exercised, the board should be reconstituted to include an equal number of employee and shareholder representatives, with a smaller third group of co-opted directors who would be mutually agreed.*
2 All directors would have the same duties and responsibilities to the company – and they would be obliged to consider the interests of shareholders and employees.
3 Employee representation would be introduced by a process starting with a request from one or more independent trade unions, representing 20 per cent of the companies' employees, recognised by the company and a secret ballot of all employees.
4 The arrangements for the selection of employee representatives would be made by a joint union committee – the Joint Representation Committee – representing all independent and recognised trade unions in the company.
5 The employee representatives would be employees of the company not full time trade union officials. They would not receive special directors' fees on top of their normal pay. They would have access to secretarial and similar services and time-off from their duties as of right.
6 Shareholder representatives would normally be top executives of the company, as at present.
7 Britain should not adopt a formal two-tier structure of supervisory and management boards, but should build on the present flexible system of a single board.
8 An industrial democracy commission should be set up to help industry introduce the new system. A training programme will be necessary for the new directors, of which the extra cost should largely be borne from public funds.

The committee calculate that some 7 million people, or more than a quarter of the total work force, are employed by the 738 enterprises employing 2,000 or more people in the United Kingdom. Legislation applying to these enterprises should be introduced and should apply both to the board of the holding company of a group with a total of 2,000 or more employees and to large subsidiaries which themselves employ 2,000 or more people.

The reconstitution of company boards to provide for equal worker and shareholder representation would facilitate the joint formulation of company policy by representatives of labour and capital, thereby establishing a new basis for consent in industry and providing a new legitimacy for the exercise of the management function within an agreed policy framework.

The committee take the view that, for this reason, their recommendations would have a beneficial impact on industrial efficiency. It is only by providing employees with the right to equal representation on company boards that society can expect them to shoulder equal responsibility for the success of industry.

The committee also emphasise that, as a member of the EEC, the UK is bound to move towards employee representation on boards. This is already a reality in West Germany and in Sweden, whose economic performance has been highly successful.

Minority report

Three of the committee's members – Mr N. P. Biggs, Sir Jack Callard and Mr Barrie Heath – have prepared a minority report.

They argue that their proposals represent the best way of fulfilling the committee's remit – to consider how, but not whether, a radical extension of industrial democracy can best be achieved by the representation of employees on boards of directors. They take the view however that this remit was far from satisfactory.

They argue for the prior development of worker participation below board level and suggest that, if employee representation is to be introduced, it should be confined to a minority on a supervisory board in a two-tier system. The employee representatives would be elected from both trade unionists and non-trade unionists.

*Mr Wilson has also signed a note of dissent on the proportion of employee representatives on a company's board.

Summary of the report

The majority report

Chapters 1-3 set the background to the committee's consideration of proposals for industrial democracy.

Chapter 1 describes how the committee set about its task.

Chapter 2 provides the relevant statistics on the private sector (ie excluding the nationalised industries and bodies such as building societies and partnerships) of the British economy – to which the committee's proposals relate.

There are some 738 enterprises employing 2,000 or more people in the UK, of which about one in six or seven is a multinational company controlled from overseas. This figure is not the same as that for all companies employing 2,000 or more people, since virtually all these enterprises are in fact groups of companies organised in pyramids of holding and subsidiary companies. The figure for all companies employing 2,000 or more is in the region of 1,800.

Over 7 million people in the UK, more than one-quarter of the total work force, are employed by these larger enterprises. They also employ over 2 million people overseas.

Trade union membership in these larger British enterprises has grown and on average is now of the order of 70 per cent.

Chapter 3 looks at the post-war economic and social changes which have led to pressure for greater worker participation in company decision-making. Among the changes discussed are the growing concentration of economic power, the rapidity of technological change, the rise in living standards and educational standards and the strengthening of the collective organisation of workpeople through trade unions.

The growth of trade union participation, which has occurred at national and local levels, has shown up the gap which exists at company level.

Eight countries in West Europe now have schemes of one kind or another (West Germany for 25 years) and the EEC has published draft proposals for employee representation.

The report concludes this chapter by noting that 'the concern of the Committee has been to consider how ... existing forms of participation can best be complemented, extended and developed, in response to the pressures for change ...'

Chapters 4-6 examine the range of proposals before the committee for the extension of industrial democracy, discuss the main objections and difficulties raised in evidence and analyse the major issues. The report finds that none of the difficulties are

insurmountable and that the case for employee representation at board level is convincing.

Chapter 4 looks at the proposals submitted by the TUC, the CBI and the EEC.

The TUC argued for worker representation as a legal right on a 50-50 basis with shareholders.

EEC proposals envisage equal representation on boards of employees, shareholders and a third co-opted group.

The CBI was strongly critical of any compulsory scheme but favoured a system of 'participation agreements', backed by legislation, in which board level representation would be one of many options.

Chapter 5 sets out some of the main problems of board level representation which need to be considered.

These include the need for an adequate substructure of participation below board level; the legal responsibilities of directors; the protection of confidential information gained from board membership; the possible conflict of interest between the traditional collective bargaining role of trade unions and board representation; the problems of groups and multinational enterprises.

Chapter 6 is particularly concerned with the likely impact of employee representation on boards on the efficiency of companies and on their ability to meet their obligations to investors and consumers. The report argues that the involvement of employees in decision-making will tend to increase the efficiency of companies and ultimately to make them more profitable. It acknowledges that it is only experience over many years that will vindicate this belief but points out that experience in other European countries suggests that employee representation on the board can have some of the benefits claimed for it.

On the question of legislation for the introduction of employee representation as opposed to arguments for evolution upwards from existing forms of participation below board level, the committee deny that a choice has to be made between either legislation or evolution. 'Indeed representation at board level may be the guarantee and catalyst for effective participation at lower levels.'

The main argument in favour of legislation is that it would simultaneously strengthen existing forms of industrial democracy below board level and give employee representatives an effective say in decision-making at the highest levels within a company. CBI proposals for participation agreements would not achieve the same result and would certainly not make the major policy decisions of companies the subject of joint regulation. Furthermore, the CBI had not been able to put forward any effective and workable legal sanctions to back up their proposals.

UK company law at present constitutes a legal impediment to extensions to industrial democracy based on employee representation on boards, since it gives shareholders alone the right to appoint directors. This is another argument for legislation.

Chapter 7 looks at the present structure of companies in the UK, the origins and background of company directors, and notes the diversity in the composition and function of boards. UK company law is flexible about the structures which companies may adopt. The present duties of directors in law and practice are described.

Chapter 8 then takes up what changes in company law would be necessary for the introduction of employee representation on the board.

First, the committee reject the introduction of a statutory two-tier board system and recommend that employee representation should be introduced on reconstituted unitary company boards.

They reject a two-tier system, which would seek to separate the supervisory and the management functions, as they do not consider that such a clear distinction can be easily drawn. Further, the supervisory board (on which employees would be represented) could well find its powers restricted.

Unitary boards would still be able to delegate certain functions to lower boards or management committees (as happens at present) but the report recommends that company law should be more precise than it now is and should spell out areas where the responsibility for decisions must rest with the board of directors.

The reconstitution of the board with employee representatives entails changes in its relationship with the shareholders' meeting, though the report claims that in practice the initiative for major changes already comes from the board in almost all cases.

In certain areas, the report suggests that the exclusive right to convene a shareholders' meeting for the purpose of considering resolutions should belong to the reconstituted board, but that the shareholders' meeting should retain the right to decide whether to pass the resolutions or not.
The areas are:

1 winding-up;
2 changes in the memorandum and articles of association;
3 dividends;
4 changes in capital structure;
5 disposal of a substantial part of the undertaking.

That apart, the report's recommendations would not entail significant changes in the present powers of shareholders and of senior management.

The legal duties and responsibilities of all directors would be the same. The basic duty of directors to act in the best interests of the company would require that they take into account the interests of the company's employees as well as those of its shareholders, present and future.

Employee representatives should report back to their constituents through trade union channels. The report notes that considerable concern has been expressed about confidential information, but states that employee representatives can understand and respect the confidential nature of information which they obtain as directors, as has been found to happen in Sweden, where serious problems in this matter were feared but did not materialise in practice.

Chapters 9-12 describe the way in which the recommended scheme of employee representation would operate.

Chapter 9 examines the question of the proportion of employee representatives that should sit on company boards. The committee note that this was the most difficult issue of their deliberations (and it is to these recommendations that Mr N. S. Wilson's note of dissent is primarily related).

The committee argue for the equal representation of employees and shareholders; only thus can effective employee representation be secured, and only thus can employees be expected to take on equal responsibility for the conduct of the business.

The committee propose that boards should be composed of an equal number of employee and shareholder representatives plus a third group of co-opted directors. The co-opted directors would make up less than one-third of the total board and would be an odd number greater than one. The committee have explained their proposal in terms of the formula '2X + Y' where × stands for employee and shareholder representatives and y for co-opted directors. The presence on the board of co-opted directors who do not represent distinct interest groups should help the board to reach a consensus and should encourage company policy to be viewed in a wider context.

The committee suggest detailed provisions for reconstituting existing boards on the 2X + Y formula. In rare cases where co-option cannot be agreed on by the employee and shareholder representatives, the new Industrial Democracy Commission would in the last resort have power to appoint to the 'Y' seats.

In the event of a failure to agree the size and composition of the reconstituted board within six months, statutory 'fail-safe' provisions could be invoked.

The committee propose that the chairman of the board should come from the shareholder representatives, unless the board unanimously agrees otherwise.

The committee expect that on average it would take between two to three years from the date on which legislation took effect to the date on which a new 2X + Y board was fully constituted.

Chapter 10 describes how in each enterprise the employees' wish to be represented on the board should be expressed, tested and then translated into reality.

The committee reject any universally mandatory requirement for the introduction of employee representatives, on the West German model. It should be left to recognised and independent trade unions (with bargaining rights on behalf of at least 20 per cent of all employees in the company) to make a formal request. There would then be a secret ballot of all employees and, if this showed by a simple majority comprising at least one-third of all eligible employees that they wished to be represented on the board of their company, the process of reconstituting the board would begin.

The trade unions in the company would then devise the method of selecting the employee representatives.

Central to the committee's recommendations in this chapter is the Joint Representation Committee (JRC) on which all independent and recognised trade unions in

the company would be represented. The JRC would discuss with existing management the size of the new board and would act as the nominating body for the employee representatives. There are detailed proposals for the resolution of possible disagreements between the JRC and management and between different unions, where unanimity cannot be obtained, involving the TUC and the new independent body (the Industrial Democracy Commission) in difficult cases. It is emphasised that until the trade unions agree a joint line on the details of representation the existing board of directors will continue in office.

The JRC would also have a wider function of providing the link between board level representation and existing collective bargaining machinery, thereby helping to reduce any problems of demarcation as between the two functions.

Chapter 11 recommends that employee representation on company boards should apply initially to the ultimate holding company of a group which employs 2,000 or more people in the UK, as well as to an individual company which employs 2,000 or more people in the UK whether or not it is part of a group.

Special provisions are proposed for groups of companies whereby the holding company would have a residual power to appoint directors to the 'Y' seats on the board of a subsidiary if there was failure to agree on their co-option. This is designed to ensure that employee representation is effective at levels where policy decisions are taken but at the same time to enable the group to function as a centrally-controlled commercial organisation.

It is proposed to alter the definition of a 'subsidiary company' so that, before a company is taken over as a subsidiary of another, its board has to give its agreement.

There are particular problems with respect to multinational companies, whether UK or foreign-based. In the case of the former, the committee say that it would not be possible to legislate at this stage for the representation at top board level of the group's overseas employees, but this does not justify exemption from the main proposals. In the case of foreign-owned multinationals, special provisions are made regarding the application of the 2X + Y formula on the board of the top UK holding company. In the event of a failure to agree on the co-opted members constituting the 'Y' element, the appointment of 'Y' element would be made by the Industrial Democracy Commission as in the normal case but, here, after consultation with both the parent company and the British Government.

The committee are opposed to exemption for particular sectors such as banking, insurance, shipping, construction, hotels and catering, broadcasting and the press.

Chapter 12 recommends the setting up of an independent Industrial Democracy Commission which could give advice, conciliation and in some cases decisions on arrangements for employee representation on boards.

The commission would work closely with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) but would be an independent body with its own tripartite council (representatives of employers, trade unions and others with relevant experience) appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade in consultation with the Secretary of State for Employment (or vice versa).

A substantial training programme, based on the expansion of existing arrangements for trade union and management studies, would be required in order to make the introduction of employee representatives effective. The government should directly bear a large part of the extra cost, estimated to be some £3 million over the first three years.

In a *concluding chapter*, the majority report emphasises that the majority fully accept the need for participation below the board. Indeed their proposals, entailing a joint representation committee, demonstrate the importance of this aspect of their recommendations. Nevertheless the crucial test which alone will carry conviction and create a willingness to share responsibility is an acknowledgement of the right of employee representatives, if they ask for it, to share in the strategic decisions taken by the board.

The majority have not recommended a system which on an appointed day should have universal and immediate application. All employees should be involved and if a sufficient majority is obtained, then the reconstituting of the board should take place. This is a half-way house between enabling legislation and universally mandatory legislation.

Once the law has been altered then management as much as trade unions will see the need to make a success of the new relationship. They will come to recognise the benefits to be derived from the new arrangements by unions, employees and thus by the nation as a whole.

Note of dissent

Mr Wilson signed the main report subject to his rejection of the principle of the right to equal shareholder and employee representation. He sees the 2X + Y formula as likely to lead to cumbersome and unwieldly boards unrelated to the real needs of companies. He believes that employee directors forming a minority in relation to shareholder representatives can exert a significant and beneficial influence, and that their number should be determined by the size of the company, with no limitation imposed on the composition of the rest of the board.

Representation of employees on unitary boards, selected through trade union machinery as proposed in the main report but as a minority group on the board, would have the advantages of arousing much less opposition from all levels of management and of making unnecessary all the complex provisions for groups and multinationals contained in the proposal for equal representation.

The minority report

The minority report regards the committee's emit as far from satisfactory or wise. The terms of reference, it points out, required it 'to consider how (employee representation on boards of directors) can best be achieved' not whether such an extension of industrial democracy should be so achieved.

In these circumstances, the minority report defines what it believes would be the least damaging form of legislation to introduce and suggests, subject to specified timing, that there might be minority employee representation at board level of companies employing 2,000 persons or more.

The whole proposition incorporates what the minority report calls democratic arrangements (ie arrangements not related to trade union members only) whereby such representation might be supervisory boards, with one-third employee representation, one-third shareholder representation and one-third independent members. This would be strictly conditional upon the prior creation and operation of an effective sub-board structure. What is felt to be a practical modus operandi for such boards is outlined and recommendations cover the problems of companies with significant overseas interests and also the problem of UK subsidiary companies.

The five fundamental issues on which the signatories were not prepared to compromise:

1 that where a secret ballot reveals a majority of employees in favour of representation at board level, such representation should be on supervisory, not unitary boards;
2 that in no circumstances should the employee representation constitute half or more than half of a supervisory board;
3 that the employee representation should include at least one representative of all categories of employees – from the shop floor payroll, from salaried staff employees, and from management;
4 that the issues of board level representation should not be voted upon until a complementary 'sub-structure' of an employee council has been established and operated effectively for a specified number of years (three years is recommended);
5 that all employees (not just members of trades unions) should be involved in elections both to employee councils and to board level appointments.

The minority report also proposes:

1 elections should be by secret ballot and should not be valid unless 60 per cent or more of the electorate cast effective votes;
2 employee representation at board level should be introduced only when it has the support of a simple majority of all employees who have completed one year's service, this support to be demonstrated in a secret ballot;
3 a ballot might be demanded either by unanimous approach of all independent trades unions recognised by the company, or by a two-thirds majority of the employee council;
4 substantial length of service requirement (10 years is recommended) should be specified for employee candidates for board membership.

The independent members of the supervisory board should be elected by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the employee elected representatives and of the

shareholder elected representatives voting together. In the event of a continuing failure to achieve a two-thirds vote, the matter should be referred to a general meeting of shareholders who should appoint the independent members.

The powers, duties and responsibilities of the supervisory board should be confined to the general monitoring of the conduct of the company's affairs by the board of management; it should not participate directly in the day-to-day management of the company. The existing structure, organisation and purpose of boards of directors would thus be substantially unchanged, but a new and important element of accountability would be introduced.

Employee representatives on supervisory boards of truly multi-national companies should not be entitled to vote on investment projects outside the UK.

In groups of companies, the supervisory board arrangement should be limited to the holding companies.

Banks and large insurance companies should be exempt.

The minority report concludes that the fundamental task to be tackled is that of stimulating some new upsurge of effort to improve the effectiveness of British companies in the generation of wealth for the community. It argues that there is no evidence that the changes proposed in the majority report would be beneficial; on the contrary, the risks would be enormous. Caution is essential.

The ninth vessel of an original order for 13 ships placed by Kuwait with Govan Shipbuilders – the 'Ibn 'Hazm', launched at Scotstoun Marine (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Govan Shipbuilders Ltd). The 23,000-tons general purpose cargo vessel was sponsored by Abdul Rahman Mulla Hussein, chairman of Kuwait Shipping Company. There are five holds, all forward of the engine space, and the service speed is 16 knots. Kuwait Shipping placed a further order for six similar vessels with Govan Shipbuilders in May 1976. There are now 13 ships to be built or delivered from the Govan and Scotstoun yards – 11 more of the Kuwait class and two bulk carriers for the Philippines.

OFT proposes new laws on price displays and VAT

New laws requiring the inclusion of VAT in prices and quotations were proposed on 20 January by Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The proposals are that when prices are advertised, displayed or quoted, the total amount to be paid, including VAT, should be given. Failure to show the VAT-inclusive price should be a criminal offence. The proposals do not cover prices quoted by one trader to another and they do not suggest that it should be compulsory to show prices.

These proposals are contained in a reference document sent on 20 January to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee which has three months to study them. The committee then sends its views on the proposals to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. If the committee's recommendation is favourable and he agrees, a draft order can then be put before parliament for approval.

Extent of the practice

The practice of quoting prices exclusive of VAT is widespread, and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has evidence of this occurring in the following businesses:

Goods
Carpets and household furnishings
Car spares, accessories and tyres
Do-It-Yourself materials
Flowers, plants and garden equipment
Electrical goods
Health equipment
Hi-fi and audio equipment
Marine and yacht equipment
Musical instruments
Stamps (collectors)
Timber
Typewriters
Wallpaper

Services
Builders and plumbers
Car hire
Hairdressers and beauty salons
Hotels and restaurants
Professional services including estate agents
Repairs, eg cars and electrical goods
Upholsterers

Failure to show clearly the VAT to be paid happens in a variety of ways. Usually, a price is shown with the added message, 'plus VAT.' Sometimes the tax is quoted – 'plus 8 per cent VAT' – but not all indications are so clear and it is common for a list of prices to have a single footnote: 'All prices subject to VAT' or 'VAT extra' with no indications of the differing tax rates applying to different types of goods.

The method of displaying prices also varies according to the type of business:

VAT-exclusive prices in shops Shops quoting VAT-exclusive prices may display notices to the effect that prices are VAT-exclusive, but the notices may not be easily visible to customers. A particularly confusing situation is where goods are on display together – some with prices including VAT, some excluding VAT.

VAT-exclusive prices in restaurants Menus displayed outside restaurants frequently show prices which do not include VAT, and it is sometimes difficult to detect that there is an extra amount payable for tax, especially when the menu is hand-written or printed in ornate type. The addition of VAT may not come to the customer's notice until the bill has to be paid.

VAT-exclusive prices in advertisements and catalogues Explanatory notes about prices may be next to the price for the goods – but they may be given elsewhere, sometimes only in the terms and conditions of sale. There can also be a confusion of VAT with post and packaging charges. One advertisement noted by OFT gives what appears to be a list of precise charges, but elsewhere in the advertisement is a statement that 8 per cent VAT should be added to the postage and packing charges.

Oral quotations The omission of VAT is fairly common in oral quotations. This may be due to forgetfulness on the part of the trader or businessman, but it could reflect an attempt to make the price more attractive. This situation can occur, for instance, when verbal quotations are given for repair work.

Effects on consumers

The OFT is in no doubt that prices quoted without VAT mislead and confuse consumers about the actual prices they will have to pay. It is difficult for proper price comparisons to be made, especially when – as seems to happen in most trades – both VAT-inclusive and VAT-exclusive prices are being quoted for goods.

The average shopper is unlikely to know which VAT rate applies to particular goods, and even if the correct rate is known, the shopper has to work it out – calculating a percentage of the price and adding the result on to the quoted price.

Once a consumer feels he is committed to buying something – especially a meal in a restaurant – it may be inconvenient and embarrassing for him to change his mind or argue about the extra charge. The OFT has evidence of transactions where the purchaser has said he would have chosen a cheaper product if he had realised at the outset that he would have to pay several pounds more in VAT for the item he had selected.

Consultations and representations

Over 80 organisations – representing manufacturers, distributors, importers, retailers, local authorities, contractors, advertisers

Consumer Protection Advisory Committee invites representations

The Consumer Protection Advisory Committee is inviting written representations from persons or bodies interested in the consumer protection proposals published by the Office of Fair Trading on 20 January. The proposals relate to the practice of quoting prices for goods or charges for services on the basis of an amount which excludes the value added tax payable.

The Director General of Fair Trading proposes that the practice should be prohibited unless the price or charge inclusive of the value added tax payable is shown clearly and no less prominently than the VAT exclusive price or charge.

Representations should be submitted by 16 February 1977 to the Secretary, Consumer Protection Advisory Committee, Room 523, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. 01-215 5612 or 5026). The committee is expected to report to Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, within three months of the date of the reference (19 January 1977).

and consumers – responded to invitations to comment to the OFT on the draft proposals. A large majority of the organisations agreed with the proposals in principle.

A limited number of copies of the OFT's dossier (price £1) are available from: The Office of Fair Trading, Field House, Breams Buildings, London EC4A 1PR.

'Check the guarantees carefully' – OFT advice on package holidays

Because so many variations have been found in the price guarantees offered by holiday tour operators, the Office of Fair Trading advise people booking holidays abroad to check very carefully exactly what they are being offered before committing themselves.

Jeremy Mitchell, OFT's director of consumer affairs, said on 18 January: 'We have studied the guarantees offered by major tour operators in their summer 1977 brochures. There are many benefits for consumers which we welcome but we found great variations in the type and extent of the guarantees offered.'

Mr Mitchell cited typical variations the OFT had discovered:

1 Some guarantees offer complete protection on all aspects of the holiday once the booking is made, but others only offer protection for holidays booked before a certain date or from the date of the final invoice.
2 In some brochures, there is conflict between the guarantee offered on one page and the booking conditions on another page – the latter purporting to allow the tour operators to pass on any increase in prices at any time.
3 Because of active competition in the travel industry, tour operators are now offering better guarantees than those printed in their brochures.

'The situation is now so confusing for the would-be holidaymaker that I feel a word of caution is necessary,' said Mr Mitchell, 'My advice is – read the terms of any guarantee on prices carefully before you book your package holiday. If you are in any doubt at all about what you are being offered, check carefully with your travel agent or direct with the tour operator.'

Mr Mitchell added that the OFT had recently discussed the price guarantees with the Association of British Travel Agents. As a result, the Association has advised its tour operator members to clarify for travel agents the terms of any guarantees being offered.

'Recommended retail prices can mislead'

Ignore manufacturers' recommended retail prices for small electrical goods is the advice given by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, opening a Consumer Advice Centre in Birkenhead on 21 January.

Setting out three points for consumers to remember, Mr Hattersley said: 'Manufacturers' recommended retail prices do not represent a fair price or a measure of value for money.'

Secondly, he said, 'Ignore all claims about reductions from manufacturers' recommended prices – they do not imply that the goods are a bargain at the so-called lower price.' And, lastly, 'Decide what to buy, and where, on the basis of the actual price you are asked and the service offered to you.'

Mr Hattersley's advice was also the subject of a parliamentary question. Replying to Bruce Grocott (Lichfield and Tamworth), who asked if he could act on the Price Commission's recommendation that the practice of recommending retail prices for small electrical goods should cease, Mr Hattersley said:

'Yes. I do so by calling on the manufacturers and importers of small electrical goods to abandon this practice, and by advising the public not to allow themselves to be misled by it.

'The report found that in the case of these particular goods the prices recommended by the manufacturers allowed for profit margins greatly in excess of those required by most retailers and that hardly anyone sold at these prices. Prices are on average 20 per cent below the recommended prices, and in some cases as much as 30 per cent.

'I endorse the Price Commission's conclusion that in these circumstances the practice of recommending retail prices is more likely to mislead than to help the consumer. This is not to say that the system of recommended prices as employed in other sectors necessarily works against the public interest. As the House knows, on receiving their report on small electrical goods, I asked the Price Commission to carry out a wider fact-finding study of manufacturers' recommended prices to supplement the report by the Monopolies Commission in 1969 and to provide an up-to-date basis for the government's consideration of the public interest. I have no wish to prejudge the outcome.

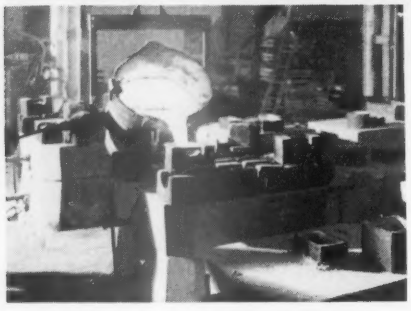
'However, so far as small electrical goods are concerned, I am satisfied that the present system should be discontinued. The consultations which my department has held with representatives of manufacturers' and retail interests has revealed a good deal of support for this view, particularly from some of the retail interests. Some retailers and some manufacturers, on the other hand, appear anxious to retain the system. To them I say that in the face of the clear evidence that the retail prices recommended for small electrical goods are not a measure of value, they are rendering a disservice to their customers by continuing to support the system and will lose all credibility.

'In the meantime, I have three pieces of advice for consumers, and I am giving them the widest possible publicity, through consumer bodies such as consumer advice centres and citizens advice bureaux and local authorities consumer affairs departments.

First – when buying small electrical household appliances, they should take no notice of the manufacturers' recommended retail price – it does not represent a fair price or a measure of value for money.
Second – they should ignore all claims about reductions from manufacturers' recommended prices – they do not imply that the goods are a bargain at the so-called lower price.
Third – they should decide what to buy and where on the basis of the actual price asked and the service offered.

'On the wider issue of the practice of recommending prices, the former Director General of Fair Trading raised a number of problems connected with recommended retail prices in his consultative document on Bargain Offer Claims and invited views. I have no doubt that the present Director General will consider what action is desirable when the Price Commission's wider factual study is available later in the year.'

The Price Commission's report on recommending retail prices for small electrical household appliances was published on 16 September 1976. The Price Commission are now studying in a wider field 'the practice whereby suppliers recommend or suggest the retail price of goods, the relationship between recommended or suggested prices and prices actually charged and the extent to which such recommended or suggested prices are advertised or otherwise made known to consumers'.



Ferrous foundry scheme

Iron and steel castings are essential components for a wide range of industries and their supply was a serious constraint during the last up-turn in the economy in 1973. Measures have since been taken to ensure that in the next up-turn capacity in the sectors where shortages were most acute will be improved, through the Department of Industry's Ferrous Foundry Scheme.

This scheme of assistance to the UK ferrous foundry industry was introduced by the Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Varley, in August 1975. Two hundred and thirty-three applications for assistance were received in the first year. A last-minute rush of fresh applications before the closing date of 31 December 1976 provided further evidence of the enthusiastic response from the industry. Altogether about 500 applications have been received from the 825 foundries in the industry. And the response has not been one just of quantity but also of quality. The vast majority of applications examined so far have been for projects that are both viable in themselves and will directly contribute to a more successful industry overall.

As noted above, iron and steel castings are essential components for a wide range of industries in Britain. The supply of these castings was a serious constraint during the 1973 upturn, and their critical importance during the next upturn in the economy has been emphasised in many of the reports of the NEDO Sector Working Parties. The success of the scheme will help the industry provide more capacity in sectors where the shortages have been particularly acute, and will also result in much better quality of castings for British industry, and for export, through the installation of new plant and the adoption of modern production methods. It will also substantially improve the working environment and so help recruit and retain labour in this industry which has difficult and relatively unattractive working conditions.

So far assistance of £31.1 million has been approved for 173 projects at 165 foundries; these projects look to a total investment of £142.5 million. Nearly 300 projects remain to be considered. The smallest amount of assistance approved so far is £6,775 for a project costing £27,100: the largest is £1,228,800 for a project costing nearly £7 million. The names of companies who have accepted offers of assistance and have received their first payment are published in *Trade and Industry*, the normal practice under the Industry Act.

Only 11 projects have so far been formally refused assistance, for a variety of reasons, eg they did not meet the timing requirements, the company concerned appeared to be risking financial over-extension, or the projects appeared to be based on over-confident sales forecasts. Other applications have been modified by the applicants, and some withdrawn after discussions with the department.

Assistance has been offered to foundries varying widely both in size and in sectors of the market covered. These include large companies making high volume repetition castings but particular care has also been taken to help jobbing foundries making one-off spare parts and components. At the small end, the scheme is helping a tied foundry with only nine workers and an independent jobbing foundry with 13 workers. At the other end, assistance has been offered to a foundry employing 4,200. The distribution is as follows:

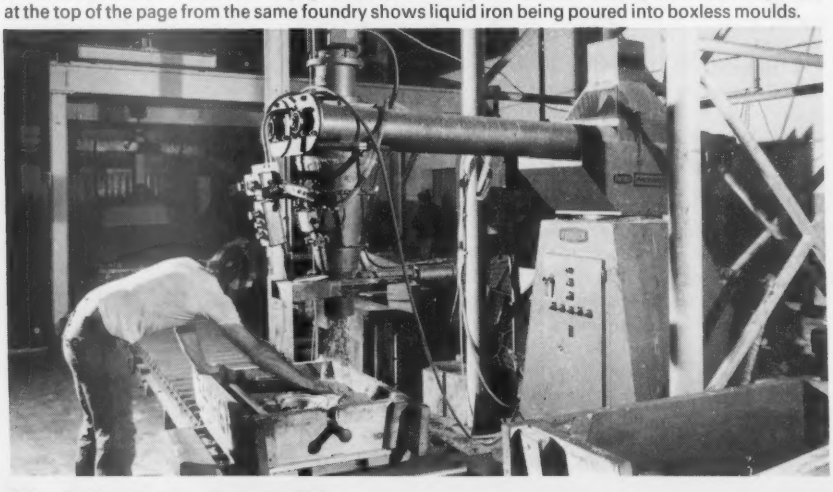
	Number of foundries		
No. employed	Iron	Steel	Iron and Steel
Up to 50	23	2	4
51-200	56	6	3
201-500	34	16	1
501-1,000	7	8	—
Over 1,000	2	3	—
	122	35	8

The range of industries that use ferrous castings and will therefore be helped indirectly by the scheme is also very wide. The major market sectors served are shown below:

Market sector	No. of iron foundry projects	No. of steel foundry projects
Diesel engines	34	1
Automotive	47	2
Machine tools	28	2
Heavy machinery	18	17
Valves and pumps	32	19
Agricultural machinery and tractors	33	—
Mining	17	14
Oil and chemicals	10	12
Construction and earth moving equipment	9	12
Iron and steel industry	12	9
Electrical	13	10
General engineering (including jobbing)	63	14
Building	13	1

While a primary object of the scheme has been to remove past bottlenecks and improve future supply to British industries needing castings, an important increase in exports

New equipment for the production of boxless moulds at the Newport, Salop, foundry of Serck Audco Valves. Investment in the equipment was aided by the Ferrous Foundry Scheme. The picture at the top of the page from the same foundry shows liquid iron being poured into boxless moulds.



Shell moulding and core assembly at the Sheffield premises of Osborn Hadfield Steelfounders Ltd. New investment has been supported by the Ferrous Foundry Scheme.

should also result from some of the new capacity now being installed. One large specialist company has already told us that orders gained in 1976 by their foundry units benefiting under the scheme included over 40 per cent for direct export.

The circumstances of individual foundries in the industry of course vary greatly and so have been the purposes for which assistance has been offered. Some foundries have identified a particular constraint at one point in the manufacturing process and plan to instal new equipment to achieve a more balanced operation. Others have identified markets where supply has been inadequate and have gone for a major expansion of output to fill the gaps, both present and projected. Others intend to diversify their products, which has required new plant, eg melting, moulding and quality control equipment. Overall, capacity of the iron foundries being assisted should rise by about 23 per cent and of the steel foundries by about 17 per cent. Many applications have also been directed to the need to improve the working conditions of foundry work. Much work in old foundries is noisy, dirty and dangerous. The use of more modern equipment should not only greatly improve productivity and quality of the product but also greatly improve the working environment. The following table provides a breakdown of capital expenditure on different activities:

	Iron		Steel	
	Total capital costs: £84.5m		Total capital costs: £53.7m	
	No. of projects	% of expenditure	No. of projects	% of expenditure
Melting and metal handling	87	21.8	27	13.4
Moulding and sand handling	110	39.5	35	29.2
Fettling and finishing	72	8.3	31	16.2
Environmental control	57	4.6	21	5.5
Misc. (incl. heat treatment)	85	12.1	35	21.3
Buildings	82	13.7	26	14.4

The objects of the scheme did not specifically include the creation of new job opportunities although this factor and greater security for existing jobs have been taken into account in the assessment of projects. It is however encouraging to note that the expansion of capacity encouraged by the scheme should also lead overall to some increase in employment. Manning at the 122 iron foundries, now about 27,500, will increase by 5.3 per cent and in the 35 steel foundries, now about 15,000, by 6.7 per cent.

Assistance under the scheme is available for expenditure completed by 31 August 1980. It is encouraging that, of the projects for which assistance has already been approved, 68 (39 per cent) are due for completion by the end of this year and a further 18, making 50 per cent, by the end of 1978.

There can be no doubt therefore that the scheme is making a major contribution towards the modernisation and selective expansion of an industry that is a vital supplier of parts and components to British industry as a whole.

New schemes for non-ferrous foundries and electronic components

Two new schemes of selective assistance under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 were announced on 24 January by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. Up to £20 million will be available for non-ferrous foundries and up to £20 million – which may be increased if the response warrants it – for the electronic components industry.

Non-ferrous foundries

The main objectives of the scheme for non-ferrous foundries are to encourage and assist new investment in modern plant, equipment and buildings, and to improve the industry's structure, its working conditions and general operating environment. This will enable non-ferrous foundries, which are vital suppliers of components to a very wide range of sectors, to play a full and efficient role in manufacturing industry.

As the scheme is selective, applicants will need to demonstrate that they have a clearly identifiable project directed towards these objectives, which offers reasonable prospects of profitability both in relation to the project itself and in improving the general prospects of the undertaking.

Eligible undertakings will be those in the UK engaged in the manufacture of castings in non-ferrous metals or their alloys, either as components for other manufactures or as finished goods, but excluding the production of medallions, works of art, and like products. The scheme will not apply to casting processes which are an integral part of refining or recycling metals, nor to the production of forms, such as billets, for further working into other forms.

Subject to certain conditions, the main classes of assistance available are as follows:

1 A grant of 25 per cent of net eligible costs for investment in plant and machinery. The minimum project size is £25,000.
2 A grant of 15 per cent of net eligible costs for investment in buildings. The minimum project size is £50,000.
3 Assistance for projects involving elements other than investment in plant, machinery and buildings, for example rationalisation or merger projects. This will normally take the form of an interest relief grant, although in some cases loans will be made. The minimum project size is £50,000.
For projects involving more than one of the above classes of assistance, the minimum size is £50,000. Total assistance under this scheme, and regional development grants should not together exceed 50 per cent of the total costs of the project. Projects aimed solely at anti-pollution or environmental control measures are not eligible.
4 For small firms a grant of 50 per cent of approved consultancy fees will be considered.

Applications have to be made to the Department of Industry by 31 July 1978, and projects have to be completed by 31 March 1981.

For a project to be eligible for consideration, application must be made to the department, or detailed discussions entered into with the department, before work is started on the project or commitments are entered into.

Inquiries should be addressed in the first instance to the appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Industry, the Industry

King & Co
Chartered Surveyors
1 Snow Hill,
London, EC1A 2DL
Telephone 01-236 3000
Telex 885485
Also in Manchester, Leeds & Brussels.

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Department of the Welsh Office, the Scottish Economic Planning Department, or the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce. Full details of the scheme will be made available as soon as possible.

Electronic components industry

Application for assistance under the scheme for the electronic components industry must be made to the Department of Industry not later than 31 July 1978.

The scheme is itended to encourage UK-based firms working in the areas of industry covered by the statistical Minimum List Heading 364 (Radio and Electronic Components) to undertake projects intended to improve their efficiency and competitiveness. It is designed to promote the design, development and production launching of new products and production technologies, the restructuring of a company or group of companies (eg rationalisation of production or product ranges within a company or between companies following a merger) and independent studies by consultants to identify opportunities for improving the efficiency of a company or merged companies, or for seeking more general surveys of the industry or its sectors.

Assistance may be given for approved projects as follows:

Part I. Design, development and production launching of new products and production technologies.

1 the research, design, development and production of new products and key electronic materials;
2 the improvement of production technologies for productivity, quality and standardisation through BS 9,000;
3 the strengthening of engineering support in production launching.

Assistance would be available in the form of a grant not exceeding 25 per cent of the total eligible cost of the project (or in certain cases at the department's discretion, a 50 per cent shared-cost contract recoverable by a levy on future sales). To be eligible under Part I the total qualifying costs of a project must normally not be less than £50,000 and assistance will be given on those stages of a development to which the department is making a contribution and to the extent that they are completed by 31 December 1980.

Part II Restructuring of the industry

Assistance will be available for wide ranging projects involving restructuring of a company or a group of companies and associated resources. The cost of independent consultants to advise on improvements to efficiency may be added to the cost of the project.

Assistance will be available in the form of a loan not exceeding 50 per cent of the total eligible cost of the project. The loan will be at the concessionary rate of interest with an interest free period of up to three years, or where more appropriate in the view of the department, in the form of an Interest Relief Grant on a notional loan under the same conditions.

To be eligible under Part II the total qualifying costs of a project must not normally be less than £50,000 and assistance will only be given to the extent that rationalisation and restructuring costs have been incurred by 31 December 1979.

Additional assistance will be available for investment in capital equipment, plant, machinery and buildings where such investment is associated with Part I and II projects. Assistance will be available in the form of grants on net eligible costs (after deducting any regional grant for which the project may qualify) of up to:

1 20 per cent for new equipment, plant and machinery;
2 15 per cent for new buildings, extension or modifications to buildings.

To be eligible the element of a project involving capital investment must normally not cost less than £50,000.

In addition to satisfying the requirements of eligibility, minimum qualifying costs and compliance with the particular requirements of the appropriate category of the scheme, applicants will also have to demonstrate:

1 in the case of product development projects that these would either (a) form part of a rationalisation or restructuring project or (b) represent an identifiable increment to the applicant's current forward investment programme. Firms seeking assistance for project development projects would also have to demonstrate the project's viability and its industrial desirability.
2 in the case of restructuring that the projects would be beneficial to the companies involved and desirable in terms of industry structure.

The department would also have to be satisfied that the company had the capability to carry the propositions to a successful commercial conclusion.

Inquiries, requests for guidance notes and the method of applying for assistance under the scheme should be made in writing to: the Department of Industry, Computer Systems and Electronics Division, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1.

Conferences on consumer credit licensing

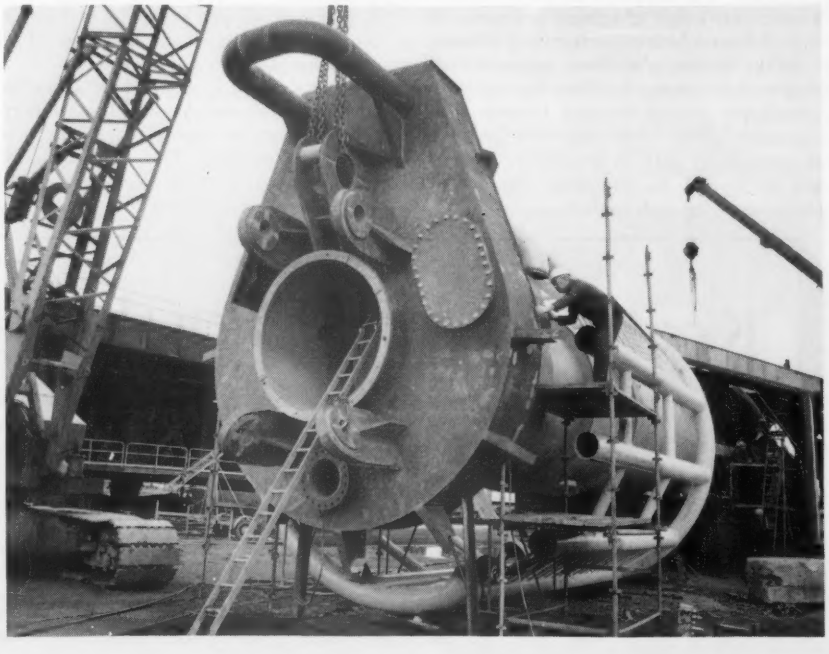
Because the Office of Fair Trading will shortly be asking traders to apply for their consumer credit and hire licences, the College for the Distributive Trades is organising three one-day conferences to help the retailers who will be affected.

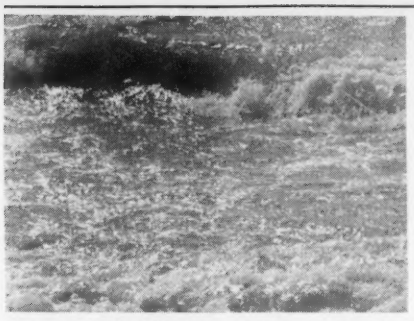
The conferences – organised in conjunction with the Office of Fair Trading – will be held in London on 3 February, in Manchester on 10 February and in Edinburgh on 18 February. Speakers from OFT and independent lawyers will explain the technicalities of licensing and there will be several question sessions.

Further information about the conferences is available from: Mrs Ann Foster, Senior Lecturer, Department of Management Studies, College for the Distributive Trades, 30 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LE, tel. 01-839 1547.

A Salm for the Thistle field

Surveyor Douglas Stewart from Lloyd's Register's office at Leith inspects a weld on the mooring table of a Salm – a single anchor leg mooring – destined for the Thistle field. The Salm double-jointed tanker loading terminal was built by Motherwell Bridge Offshore Ltd, Leith, under a contract with David Brown-Vosper (Offshore) Ltd in association with the designers, SBM Inc. The Salm has been loaded on a flat-bottomed barge and is due to be towed out to the Thistle field in May.





The UK and cleaner seas

by S. N. Burbridge, assistant secretary, Marine Division, Department of Trade

International action towards cleaner seas was triggered off on 19 January by a document received from the Nigerian Government by Imco.

The reader may ask three questions. One, what is Imco? Two, what was the document? Three, how will it bring about cleaner seas?

Firstly, Imco stands for the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation. This is the United Nations specialised agency, the only one based in London, which is charged, among other things, with promoting international safety and pollution prevention standards for ships. Secondly, the document was Nigeria's acceptance of the 1969 Amendments which amend the 1954 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil. They provide for much more stringent standards for the discharge of oil from ships which, if properly adhered to, would virtually eliminate 'operational' pollution from ships. In answer to question three, the amendments come into force one year after two-thirds of the 57 contracting parties to the convention had accepted them. Acceptance by Nigeria means that the 1969 amendments will come into force on 19 January twelve months hence.

A fourth point is that the 1969 amendments were a United Kingdom initiative in Imco. We quickly applied the amendments to our own ships, as did one or two other countries, since they represented such a marked step forward and in many cases were recommended practice already. But we were disappointed at the rate of acceptances of the amendments and in 1974 helped mount a campaign to encourage other countries to accept. Against one acceptance in 1974 there were five in 1975 and 10 acceptances in 1976. With our paternal interest in the amendments the achievement of the magic number this month was a moment of significance for us. As we now move towards the next target, of which more below, we might pause to consider Britain's contribution to cleaning the seas. That is the purpose of this short article.*

Ship pollution in perspective

A few years ago it was estimated that six million tons of oil went into the sea each year; that two million tons was discharged from sea-going ships. Of the remaining four million tons well over one million tons arose from natural seepage from the sea bed and from atmospheric fall-out.

To mention natural causes is not to exonerate ships from responsibility for creating the pollution that can endanger the environment. Nature will absorb a gradual input of oil from a sea bed seepage, but not the sudden offloading of a large quantity of oil. It is the conglomeration of oil in the sea that can cause damage, not least in disfiguring our coasts, harming fish breeding grounds and killing seabirds. Since ships can cause this damage, and we should not forget the pollution from land-based sources, it should be within our joint powers to minimise it.

One further estimated statistic. As we have seen, ships may be responsible for one-third of the input of oil into the marine environment. Of this proportion, some 90 per cent is thought to be from 'operational' discharges such as the cleaning of tanks, and 10 per cent from oil spills after accidents to ships. But in terms of pollution the disparity between these figures is lessened by the fact that properly controlled 'operational' discharge does not cause pollution, whereas an accidental spill can have short-term effects on shore bordering on the catastrophic.

Attack on the problem

Our attack on the problem is three-pronged. We aim to

1 control operational discharges from ships so they do not cause pollution;
2 improve the safety of ships in order to limit accidental pollution as well as to save life and limb;

but since no amount of voluntary effort, persuasion and regulation will ever achieve the ideal we must have a capability to

3 deal with oil spills when they occur around our coasts.

The following sections trace how the United Kingdom has pursued these three objectives in recent years and describe its aims for the immediate future. Space does not allow a full recapitulation of the historic role the United Kingdom has played. But it has always been a significant role and usually the leading one internationally. Safety of ships and pollution from ships must be an international problem, and the United Kingdom used its position as leading maritime nation in the first half of this century to encourage the development of international standards. It was the United Kingdom that called an international conference after the sinking of the *Titanic* (though the first world war intervened to prevent the convention being ratified) and subsequently called conferences such as the 1929 Safety of Life at Sea Conference, the 1948 Safety of Life at Sea Conference, the 1954 Pollution Conference, acting as secretariat and subsequently as depositary for the conventions which resulted. The United Kingdom also played a leading part in the United Nations in forming Imco which came into being in 1959, and immediately made its mark with the 1960 Safety of Life at Sea Convention. Although our merchant fleet now ranks third in size behind Liberia and Japan, the United Kingdom continues to take a leading position in the international arena. The 1969 amendments are one of a long series of United Kingdom initiatives.

Operational discharge of oil

Why does a ship have to discharge oil into the sea? There are three main reasons:

Firstly Tankers need to take on water ballast so they are stable for the return voyage to the loading port, and to discharge that ballast. Unless there are dedicated tanks for such ballast, the water would mix with the oil remaining in the tanks after discharging the previous cargo.

Secondly Tankers have to be cleaned to prevent the build up of sludge, normally with water which needs to be discharged.

Thirdly Ships of all kinds collect oil in machinery space bilges which has to be discharged for reasons connected with safety.

By far the most important is the discharge of oily water from tankers. In the bad old days, a tanker's master would sometimes clean his tanks on the ballast voyage and dump the washings straight into the sea often near to land and his port of loading. Depending on the characteristic of the oil, the clingage remaining after unloading could amount to over 1 per cent of the contents of a tank. Bearing in mind that some 1.5 billion tons of crude oil is now carried by sea each year, if the old practices were followed discharges from tankers could be twice the total discharge into the sea estimated in the early part of this article. The fact that nothing like this amount goes into the sea is due to the development and application in the 1960s of Load On Top. The 1969 amendments reflect this development since they lay down stringent discharge standards which can be achieved by a tanker efficiently operating Load On Top. It has been a good example of progress resulting from co-operation between industry and government.

Put very simply, Load On Top amounts to an orderly programme of washing oily tanks on a ballast voyage, depositing the oily water into slop tanks and waiting for the oil and water to separate, discharging the separated water into the sea, and loading the next cargo on to the oil retained from the previous cargo. The amount of oil retained on board can be considerable and, in the best case, be in the region of 98 per cent of that discharged by the previous methods. The difference is enormous.

The difference between the 1969 amendments and the previous international regulation is similarly great. Under the 1954 convention (amended in 1962) there are pro-

* A comprehensive account of pollution prevention is contained in 'The Battle against Oil Pollution at Sea' published by the Department of Trade in March 1976.

hibited areas, normally up to 50 or 100 miles from land, where discharge of oil is prohibited. But 'prohibition' means prohibition of discharge of an oily mixture over 100 parts per million; and there is no restriction on the quantity which can be discharged. So a tanker at anchor could go on discharging indefinitely. And beyond the prohibited areas there is no restriction on discharge at all. The 1969 amendments prohibit in virtually every respect discharges from tankers within 50 miles of land. They limit tankers beyond that distance to a rate of 60 litres per mile when en route and, during a round voyage, to 1/15,000th of their total oil cargo carrying capacity. A total discharge of 0.0066 per cent of carrying capacity is a far cry from a possible discharge of up to 1.0 per cent of cargo.

The 1969 amendments coming into force will not suddenly bring about pollution-free seas. It is thought that 80 per cent of tankers already observe them whether or not their flag state has made them mandatory. But for the remaining 20 per cent, how does one enforce the regulations? By putting the onus where it is most effectively borne: firstly the master of a ship, secondly the owner, thirdly the flag state and fourthly by international co-operation. It will be obvious that a violation of the 1969 amendments will be much more easily detectable than the previous regulations. A discharge from a tanker sighted within 50 miles from land will be very likely to be evidence of a violation; and it will be relatively easy to check in the loading port if much more than 1/15,000 of cargo capacity had been discharged during the ballast voyage. The United Kingdom is also taking the lead in developing internationally with the industry a procedure for voluntary inspection in loading ports.

These are our immediate preoccupations. What of the future? In 1973 Imco called a conference which resulted in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973. This convention not only incorporated the 1969 amendments, slightly stiffening them, but also laid down for the first time regulations for controlling pollution by noxious substances other than oil. This latter is a highly desirable objective but more work needs to be done on the properties of such substances before the convention can be fully implemented. The United Kingdom has already contributed to this work. However, in such a complex field as this, and bearing in mind that Imco now comprises 101 states, it seems essential that the organisation should concentrate on one objective at a time. Hence the emphasis the United Kingdom has placed on the 1969 amendments until it was clear that that goal was in sight. Now it is the turn of the 1973 convention. Last June we proposed in Imco's Marine Environment Protection Committee that the organisation should give all its concentration to the next objective of bringing the 1973 convention into effect.

Accidental pollution

To a large extent, our objectives of promoting safety at sea run precisely parallel with our objective of preventing accidental pollution. The history of the Safety Conventions again testifies to the continuing efforts of the United Kingdom to improve standards. Its most recent initiatives in the safety field have been to inspire the 1974 Safety of Life at Sea Convention with its accelerated amendment procedure to enable safety regulation to keep abreast of changing technology; and secondly to promote a scheme which came into effect at the beginning of this year to encourage better detection and control of sub-standard ships.

More specifically related to pollution prevention was a series of action points which were taken up following the *Torrey Canyon* disaster ten years ago. Many of these points have since been translated into action. For example, a number of traffic separation schemes have been designated and these will become mandatory when the 1972 Collision Regulations come into force later this year; much work has gone into the crucial matter of standards of training and watchkeeping on board ship and Imco is holding a major conference next year to establish such standards; and Imco has adopted recommendations on the carriage of radar and echo-sounders on ships. Another example of a UK initiative in Imco was the regulation relating to the size and positioning of tanks in tankers so as to restrict the amount of oil likely to escape in the event of a collision or stranding. Nevertheless, despite all this activity in Imco which is reflected through national regulations, the United Kingdom government has been acutely aware of the need to keep the problem of tanker safety under review. Early in 1975 a Tanker Safety Group was set up with representatives of government departments and both sides of industry. Bearing in mind the recent series of accidents to tankers of other flags it has been decided to publish an interim report on its findings on the safety of tankers, and this is to be published in *Trade and Industry* soon.

Pollution clearance

Safety of ships and the prevention of pollution from ships begin at the international end because ships of all flags pass our shores and common standards are essential. However, when a spillage does occur the responsibility for clearing it rests primarily with the state affected, though the readiness to co-operate with neighbours is essential. Here we start at the national end and work outwards.

The United Kingdom's organisation for dealing with spillages of oil has recently been reviewed and described in detail in a report titled 'Accidental Oil Pollution of the Sea'*. In this article, we select a few strands of policy.

Firstly, we rely almost entirely on dispersants for clearing oil at sea. The toxicity of such approved dispersants is minimal, and infinitely less than those used to clear the *Torrey Canyon* spill, and they may, if properly controlled, be used in most sea areas. However, we would prefer to remove the oil from the environment and Warren Spring Laboratory have undertaken a two-year evaluation programme with a recently acquired research ship with this objective in view. In the meantime, the government is increasing the level of its dispersant capability by changing over to the new concentrate variety.

Secondly, as with pollution prevention, emphasis is placed on co-operation with industry. Early in 1975 the Secretary of State for Trade set up a Standing Committee on Pollution Clearance at Sea (Scopcas) on which departmental, industrial and environmental interests are represented. It has among many other subjects given attention to the pollution threat in Orkney and Shetland as the new terminals for North Sea oil come on stream, and it is now turning its attention to the problem of spills in the production area of the North Sea. Additionally, a separate effort is currently being put into developing contingency plans for spills of dangerous chemicals.

Thirdly, having brought our national capability under review, we are looking abroad more intensively than before. In spring 1976, the Anglo-French Safety of Navigation Group which had concentrated on accident prevention, and under whose aegis the Channel Navigation Information Service had been set up, decided to turn its attention to remedial measures. A joint maritime disaster plan for the channel is now on the point of completion and it is intended to exercise it later in the year. It may be possible to extend its coverage to other nearby countries later. We have also held a series of discussions with Norwegian officials on the threat of pollution in the North Sea with a view to co-operation in the production area. At the regional level we have taken steps to 'activate' the Bonn Agreement 1969 for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil, and the government of the Federal Republic of Germany has invited contracting states to a meeting later in the year. Finally, at the 'global' level there is a full exchange in Imco of information, and through Imco technical assistance is provided to developing countries, with the UK often to the fore.

Conclusion

Although there is intensive effort in the field of pollution prevention and clearance, and progress is being made, we delude ourselves if we believe that the problem will ever be wholly solved. But we do believe that, if properly enforced, the 1969 amendments will go a long way towards preventing operational pollution; and if international safety regulations are observed by all flags then the chances of accidental pollution will diminish. The international route is, in the UK's view, the best route to secure better safety standards and to minimise pollution. Hence, the United Kingdom has taken a strong stand at the Law of the Sea Conference in favour of flag state enforcement buttressed by a measure of port state enforcement of international regulations. A multiplicity of varying regulations by coastal states would not only hinder the free passage of shipping, but undermine international regulation-making and eventually lead to the lowering of international standards.

A second point that needs re-emphasising is the co-operation between industry and governments in this area. It is fair to draw attention again to the progress made by the tanker industry to develop Load On Top, and which is devoting effort now to the new development of cleaning tanks with crude oil. The International Chamber of Shipping last year produced a code of compliance with a substantial portion of the 1973 Convention. Marine Division consults the industry,

* Pollution Paper No 8, published by HMSO in 1976, at £2.05.

including the General Council of British Shipping, on its policy in the Marine Environment Protection Committee through a group constituted last year called the Ship Pollution Advisory Group; and it welcomes the advice it receives from the independent Advisory Committee on Oil Pollution of the Sea (ACOPS).

Finally, to conclude where we began – with the 1969 amendments – the United Kingdom can take some satisfaction that another of its initiatives in the field of safety and pollution prevention at sea is soon to bear fruit. Though Marine Division is far from complacent, and well understands that no force on earth can entirely prevent the possibility of another *Torrey Canyon*, a good deal is being achieved. One official colleague paid a nice compliment recently when he said that effort and expenditure in this area was evidently well spent, because he could now take his family on holiday to the Pembrokeshire coast without being pestered by oil on the beaches. Quite unlike ten years ago.

But, having achieved the 1969 amendments we have our sights on the next main objectives:

1 to work towards the early bringing into force of the 1973 Pollution Convention;

2 to concert international effort in raising safety standards of sub-standard ships;

3 to improve our contingency planning for oil spills, and extend their coverage with our neighbours.

Advisory committee on marine pilotage appointed

A new Advisory Committee on Marine Pilotage has been appointed by Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade. Dr Denis Rebbeck, from Northern Ireland, is chairman, and other members of the committee are drawn from pilotage interests around the coast.

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, said in a written answer in the House of Commons that pressure on the parliamentary timetable made it impossible to introduce legislation on pilotage in the present session.

'I am, however, very conscious of the concern felt by most of the pilotage interests that the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Steering Committee on Pilotage should not be further delayed,' he said. 'Accordingly the Secretary of State has appointed an advisory committee on pilotage with the following terms of reference:

'To advise the Secretary of State for Trade regarding changes in all aspects of pilotage arrangements in the UK which can and should be made in advance of new legislation; in particular, to progress the reorganisation of local pilotage authorities on the general lines endorsed in the government's policy statement of December 1975; and to work for early agreement on the content of future pilotage legislation.'

Dr Rebbeck is a special consultant to the Swan Hunter Group Ltd, a director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, chairman of John Kelly Ltd, coal importers and shipowners of Belfast, chairman of the Iron Trades Employers Insurance Association Ltd, a member of the general committee of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, a Belfast Harbour commissioner, and fourth warden of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights. He is a former chairman and managing director of Harland and Wolff Ltd and president of the Shipbuilding Employers Federation.

Other members of the committee are Frank Berry, Humber pilot; George W. Brimyard, port services director, Mersey Docks and Harbour Company; Geoffrey Clayton, chairman, Gloucester Pilotage Authority; Fred Everard, chairman, F. T. Everard and Sons Ltd; Harry Frith, Manchester pilot; George Howison, Clyde pilot; George King, managing director, BP Tankers Ltd; Captain Peter Leighton, director of marine services, Port of London Authority; Daniel McMillan, river Thames pilot; Captain Peter Mason, elder brother, Trinity House, London; David Robinson, director, Stag Line Ltd; and John Williams, port director, Cardiff, British Transport Docks Board.

The secretary of the committee is Stuart Hampson, of the Department of Trade.

EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

Two further important provisions come into force on 1 February

The Employment Protection Act provides protection and job security for everyone who is employed, *including certain part-time workers.*

Two further provisions of the Act come into force on 1 February.

Guarantee Payments

An employee who loses a *complete* day's work through short-time or lay-off – but *not* because of an industrial dispute – is entitled to be paid the normal day's earnings up to a maximum of £6 per day for five days in any quarter. Most employees will qualify, including those working 16 hours or more per week with four weeks' continuous employment, or 8 hours or more per week with five years' continuous employment.

Part-Time Workers

From 1 February many more part-time workers will be entitled to the same individual rights and job security as full-time employees. Those employed for 16 hours or more per week will be able to qualify if, or as soon as, they have completed the necessary period of continuous employment for the individual right concerned. Those working for 8 hours or more per week will qualify if, or as soon as, they have completed five years' continuous employment.

For full details of Guarantee Payments and extension of individual rights to part-time workers, call in at your nearest Unemployment Benefit Office, Employment Office or Jobcentre.

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EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

A better working life for everyone.

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Moneylenders Acts, 1900 to 1927

Entries in these lists are in alphabetical order according to the first initial letter of the title.

The following companies held orders of exemption valid at 31 December 1976 issued under Section 6(e) of the Moneylenders Act, 1900.

A. Booth (Estates) Ltd
Afforestation Finance Ltd
Agricultural Supplies (Cambridge) Ltd
Airedale Investment Ltd
Alex Lawrie Factors Ltd
ANZ Overseas Finance Ltd
Ashbrae Finance (UK) Ltd
Austin Morris Group Facilities Ltd

B. A. Finance Ltd
B. S. G. Finance Ltd
Baldrene Ltd
Banca Commerciale Italiana Ltd
Barclays Export and Finance Co Ltd
Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd
Beamtenheimstattenwerk Gemeinnutzige Bausparkasse Fur Den Offentlichen Dienst Gesellschaft Mit Beschranker Haftung
Bentworth Trust Ltd
Book Trade Improvement Ltd
British Maritime Trust Ltd
Bucks Land and Building Co Ltd
Builders and General Mortgage Co Ltd, (The)
B. W. Trade Facilities Ltd
Byas Mosley (Life and Pensions) Ltd

CDFC (Ceylon) Ltd
CDFC International Ltd
CDFC (Malaysia) Ltd
Cameron Fund Ltd (The)
Canadian Ashland Finance (UK) Ltd
Capital Development Co Ltd
Chrysler Wholesale Ltd
Ciba Geigy (GFS) Ltd
Circle and Piotrkow Provident and Investment Society Ltd
City and Colonial Trust Ltd
Claymore Field (Finance) Ltd
Commerce International Trust Ltd
Commonwealth Development Finance Co Ltd
Contemporary Finance Co Ltd
Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas
C. P. Choularton Sons and Partners Ltd

Dao Heng Bank Ltd
D. F. J. Charles Ltd
Deutsche Bank (UK) Finance Ltd
Development Finance International Ltd
Diaome Ltd
Dominion Charter Merchant Trust Ltd
Dorset, Somerset and Wilts Investment Society Ltd

Efdum Securities Ltd
Equipment Credit Ltd

Faircliffe Finance Co Ltd, (The)
Farnworth Finance Facilities Ltd
Fenlock Investments
Finance Corporation for Industry Ltd
Finfur Ltd
First Canadian Financial Services (UK)
First Guarantee Trust Co Ltd
First National Housing Trust Ltd
Ford Financial Trust Ltd
Ford Motor Credit Co Ltd
F. W. Developments Ltd

GEC Investments Ltd
Gee and Watson (Welfare and Benevolent) Ltd
General Reversionary and Investment Co Ltd
Glenniffer Finance Corporation Ltd
Grand Metropolitan (Finance) Ltd
Guardian Mortgage Co Ltd

Henderson Administration Ltd
Heritable Securities and Mortgage Investment Association Ltd, (The)
Hobbart Properties Ltd
Hodge Finance Ltd
Hoeschst Finance Ltd
Hogarth Finance Ltd
Home and Country Properties Ltd

Ibos Finance Ltd
Independent Factors Ltd
Indochine Finance (UK) Ltd
Industrial Export Finance Co Ltd
Insurance Export Finance Co Ltd
International Factors Ltd
I. S. Blomfield Ltd
Ivor Hill (Investments) Ltd

J. F. Nash Finance Ltd
J. P. Morgan Interfunding Corporation
John Laing Construction (Finance) Ltd
Jubilee Money Society Ltd

Kingston Financial Service (Clyde) Ltd

Lancashire and Yorkshire Reversionary Interest Co Ltd
Langersal Ltd
Langham Life Finance Ltd
Law Reversionary Interest Society Ltd, (The)
Lington Holdings Ltd
Liverpool Reversionary Co Ltd, (The)
L. L. and E. Finance (GB) Ltd
Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd
London Mercantile Finance Ltd
London and Provincial Investments Ltd

Mall Trust Corporation Ltd
Manufacturers Hanover Export Finance Ltd
Master Bakers and Confectioners Finance Co Ltd
Maybells Finance Ltd
Merban Ltd
Methodist Chapel Aid Association Ltd
Midland Industries (Finance) Ltd
Millbank Development Services Ltd
MIT Securities Ltd
Modern Investments Ltd

National and Commercial Development Capital Ltd
National Film Finance Consortium Ltd
New York London Trustee Co. Ltd
Niagara Financial Services Ltd

Oakmere Finance Ltd
Ogden Street Estate Ltd
Ordinto Investments Ltd

Pan American Employees Mutual Association Ltd
Paribas Finance Ltd
Phoenix Redcliffe Ltd
Piper Finance Ltd
Pleasure Heating Finance and Developments Ltd
Produce and General Investments Ltd
Property Investment and Finance (Developments) Ltd

Queen Street Trust Ltd

Raleigh Industries (Gradual Payments) Ltd
Rediffusion Finance Ltd
RIB Eastern Ltd
Rio Tinto Finance and Exploration Ltd
RMC Finance Ltd
Robert Fleming and Co Ltd

SCR Finance Ltd
St James's Development Trust Ltd
St Paul's Guarantee Corporation Ltd
Sale Tilney (Finance) Ltd
Scottish Central Finance Ltd
Scottish and European Finance Ltd
Selap Ltd
Selection Trust Ltd
Selective Guaranty Ltd
Ship Mortgage Finance Co Ltd
Small Industries Council for Rural Areas of Scotland
South Birmingham Savings Society Ltd
Southsea Mortgage and Investment Co Ltd
Standard Guarantee Ltd
Stewart Salmon and Co Ltd
Swiss Bank Corporation (International) Ltd

TKM Credit Corporation Ltd
TKM Factors Ltd
Thomson North Sea Finance Co Ltd
Toronto Dominion Bank Investment (UK) Ltd
Treesford Securities Ltd

UDT International Finance Ltd
UKF Fertilisers Ltd

Warbridge Investment Co Ltd
Wates Ltd
Wessex Finance Corporation Ltd
West End Provident and Investment Society Ltd
Western Discount Co Ltd
Westminster House and Land Investment Co Ltd
Whitehall Securities Corporation Ltd
Wilkinson Finance Ltd
Worcestershire Housing and Savings Society, (The)

Yelverton Finance (London) Ltd
Yorkshire Bank Finance Ltd

The following persons held certificates, valid at 31 December 1976, under Section 123 of the Companies Act, 1967, to the effect that they had satisfied the Department of Trade that they could properly be treated for the purposes of the Moneylenders Acts, 1900 to 1927, as being persons bona fide carrying on the business of banking.

African Continental Bank Ltd
Allied Bank International
Amex Bank Ltd
Anglo-Continental Trust Ltd (in liquidation)
Anglo-Eastern Bank Ltd

Banco do Estado de Sao Paulo SA
Bank of Europe Ltd
Bank Fur Gemeinwirtschaft AG
Bank Hapoalim BM
Bank of New Providence Ltd
Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank Ltd
Bank of Scotland Finance Co Ltd
Bank of Tokyo Trust Co (The)
Barclays Bank Trust Co Ltd
Barnett, Christie Ltd
Bear Securities Ltd
Beverley Acceptances Ltd
Boston Trust and Savings Ltd
Bowmaker Ltd
Bremar Holdings Ltd
Brook Securities and Co Ltd
Brown Harriman and International Banks Ltd
Burlington Investments Ltd
Burston Finance Ltd (in liquidation)

Cannon Street Acceptances Ltd (in liquidation)
Capitol Consumer and Commercial Finance Ltd
C. E. Coates and Co Ltd
Cedar Holdings Ltd
Central Trustee Savings Bank Ltd
Chancery Trust Ltd
Chase Manhattan Ltd
Citibank Trust Ltd
Citicorp International Bank Ltd
Cleveland Guaranty Ltd
Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd
Commercial Bank of Malawi Ltd
Commercial Bank of Wales Ltd
Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia
Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia
Concorde Trust Ltd
Consolidated Credits and Discounts Ltd
Co-operative Commercial Bank Ltd
Copleys Bank Ltd
Corinthian Securities Ltd
Credit Suisse White Weld Ltd
Credito Italiano SpA
Cripps Warburg Ltd

David Samuel Trust Ltd (in liquidation)
Dawnay Day and Co Ltd
Drayton Corporation Ltd
Duboff Brothers Ltd
Dunbar and Co Ltd

Eagil Trust Co Ltd
Edward Bates and Sons Ltd
E. S. Schwab and Co Ltd
European Brazilian Bank Ltd

First Chicago Ltd
First Fortune Ltd
First International Bancshares Ltd
First London Securities Ltd
First Maryland Ltd
First National Bank in Dallas
First National Finance Corporation Ltd
First National Securities Ltd

G. R. Dawes and Co Ltd
G. T. Whyte and Co Ltd (in liquidation)
Goode Durrant Trust Ltd
Gray Dawes and Co Ltd
Gresham Trust Ltd
Greyhound Guaranty Ltd
Grindlays Bank (Scotland) Ltd

Havana International Bank Ltd
Henry Ansbacher and Co Ltd
Heritable and General Investment Bank Ltd
HFC Trust Ltd
Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd
Hume Corporation Ltd

Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd, (The)
Industrial Bank of Scotland Ltd
Investitions-Und Handels-Bank AG
Iran Overseas Investment Bank Ltd
Italian International Bank Ltd

Jacobs Kroll and Co Ltd (in liquidation)
Janata Bank
Japan International Bank Ltd
Julian S. Hodge and Co Ltd
Julius Baer International Ltd

Knowsley and Co Ltd

Lloyds Associated Banking Co Ltd
Lloyds and Scottish Trust Ltd
Lombard North Central Ltd
London and County Securities Ltd (in liquidation)
London and European Finance and Investment Ltd
London Capital Securities Ltd
London Mercantile Corporation Ltd

Medens Trust Ltd
Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd
Mitsubishi Bank Ltd, (The)

National Commercial Bank Ltd
National Union Bank Ltd
N. H. Woolley and Co Ltd
Nordic Bank Ltd
North Carolina National Bank
Northern Commercial Trust Ltd
Northern Trust Co, (The)
Norwich General Trust Ltd

P. S. Refson and Co Ltd
People's Bank Ltd, (The)
Philipp Brothers and Joseph Ltd
Pubali Bank

Raphael, Robinson and Glyn
Red Dragon Securities Ltd
Republic National Bank of Dallas
Republic National Bank of New York
Robert Fraser and Partners Ltd
Royal Bank of Canada Trust Corporation Ltd, (The)
Royal Trust Company of Canada, (The)
R. Raphael and Sons Ltd

Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd
St Margarets Finance Ltd

Schlesinger Ltd
Security Trust Company Ltd
Societé Générale (France) Bank Ltd
Sterling Credit Ltd
Sterling Industrial Securities Ltd

Thames Guaranty Ltd (in liquidation)
Tozer Standard and Chartered Ltd
Trade Development Bank
Trucanda Trusts Ltd
Twentieth Century Banking Corporation Ltd

United Dominions Trust Ltd
United International Bank Ltd

Vavasseur Trust Co Ltd, (The)
Vernons Trust Corporation

Wallace Brothers Bank Ltd
Wells Fargo Ltd
Western Bank Ltd
Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co Ltd
Williams, Glyn and Co
Wintrust Securities Ltd

Protection of Depositors Act 1963

Companies treated as banking or discount companies. The following companies are recognised by the Secretary of State as banking or discount companies for the purposes of the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 (as amended) as at 31 December 1976. Companies marked with an asterisk are also recognised as banking or discount companies for the purposes of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1948 (as amended).

*Alexanders Discount Co Ltd
Algemene Bank Nederland NV
*Allen, Harvey and Ross Ltd
Allied Bank International
Allied Irish Banks Ltd
*American Express International Banking Corporation
Amex Bank Ltd
*Anglo-Portuguese Bank Ltd
*Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd
*Arbuthnot Latham and Co Ltd
*Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd

Banca Commerciale Italiana SpA
Banca Nazionale del Lavoro SpA
*Banco de Bilbao
*Banco de Santander
Banco do Brasil SA
*Banco Espanol en Londres SA
Bank Hapoalim BM
*Bank Leumi (UK) Ltd
Bank Melli Iran
*Bank of Adelaide, (The)
*Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association
*Bank of Cyprus (London) Ltd
*Bank of India
Bank of Ireland
*Bank of London and South America Ltd
*Bank of Montreal
*Bank of New South Wales
*Bank of New Zealand
*Bank of Nova Scotia, (The)
Bank of Scotland
Bank of Scotland Finance Co Ltd
*Bank of Tokyo Ltd, (The)
*Bankers Trust Co
*Banque Belge Ltd
*Banque Belgo-Zairoise SA
*Banque de L'Indochine et de Suez
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, SA
*Banque de Suez (UK) Ltd
*Banque Nationale de Paris Ltd
*Banque pour le Commerce Continental
Barclays Bank Ltd
*Barclays Bank International Ltd
Barclays Merchant Bank Ltd
*Baring Brothers and Co Ltd
*Brandts Ltd
*British Bank of the Middle East, (The)
*Brown, Shipley and Co Ltd

*Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
*Cater Ryder and Co Ltd
Central Bank of India
*Charterhouse, Japhet Ltd
*Chase Manhattan Bank, NA, (The)
Chemical Bank
*C. Hoare and Co
Citibank NA
City National Bank of Detroit
*Clive Discount Co Ltd
Clydesdale Bank Ltd
Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd
*Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd,(The)
*Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd, (The)
*Commercial Bank of the Near East Ltd, (The)
Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago
Co-operative Bank Ltd
County Bank Ltd
Coutts and Co
Coutts Finance Co
*Crédit Industriel et Commercial
*Crédit Lyonnais
Credito Italiano SpA
Crocker National Bank

Dai Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd
Daiwa Bank Ltd, (The)
Detroit Bank and Trust Co, (The)
Dow Banking Corporation

European Banking Co Ltd
European Brazilian Bank Ltd

*First National Bank of Boston
*First National Bank of Chicago, (The)
First Pennsylvania Bank NA
First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee
Forward Trust Ltd
Fuji Bank Ltd, (The)

*Gerrard and National Discount Co Ltd
*Gillett Brothers Discount Co Ltd
Girard Trust Bank
Gray Dawes and Co Ltd
*Grindlays Bank Ltd
*Guiness Mahon and Co Ltd

*Habib Bank Ltd
*Hambros Bank Ltd
Harris Trust and Savings Bank
*Hill, Samuel and Co Ltd
*Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, (The)

International Commercial Bank Ltd
*International Westminster Bank Ltd
*Ionian Bank Ltd
Irving Trust Co
Italian International Bank Ltd

Japan International Bank Ltd
*Jessel, Toynbee and Co Ltd
*J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co Ltd
Johnson Matthey Bankers Ltd
Julian S. Hodge and Co Ltd
Julius Baer International Ltd

Keyser Ullman Ltd
*King and Shaxson Ltd
*Kleinwort Benson Ltd

*Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd
*Leopold Joseph and Sons Ltd
*Lewis's Bank Ltd
Lloyds Associated Banking Co Ltd
Lloyds Bank Ltd
*Lloyds Bank International Ltd
*Lloyds Bank International (France) Ltd
Lombard North Central Ltd
London Multinational Bank Ltd
London and Continental Bankers Ltd

*Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co
Marine Midland Bank – New York
*Mellon Bank NA
*Mercantile Bank Ltd
Mercantile Credit Co Ltd
Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd
Midland Bank Ltd
*Midland and International Banks Ltd
Mitsui Bank Ltd
*Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd
*Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York
*Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd

*National Bank of Australasia Ltd, (The)
National Bank of Detroit
*National Bank of Greece SA
*National Bank of New Zealand Ltd, (The)
*National Commercial and Glyns Ltd
National Westminster Bank Ltd
*Nedbank Ltd
*N. M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd
Nordic Bank Ltd
Northern Trust Company of Chicago

*Ottoman Bank

*Rea Brothers Ltd
Republic National Bank of Dallas
*Royal Bank of Canada, (The)
Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd, (The)

Saitama Bank Ltd, (The)
*Samuel Montagu and Co Ltd
Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd
*Sanwa Bank Ltd, (The)
Scandinavian Bank Ltd
*Seccombe, Marshall and Campion Ltd
Security Pacific National Bank
*S. G. Warburg and Co Ltd
*Singer and Friedlander Ltd
*Slater, Walker Ltd
*Smith, St Aubyn and Co Ltd
*Société Générale pour Favoriser le Dévelopement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France SA
Standard Chartered Bank Ltd, (The)
*State Bank of India
Sumitomo Bank Ltd, (The)
*Swiss Bank Corporation

Tokai Bank Ltd, (The)
*Toronto-Dominion Bank, (The)

*Union Bank of Switzerland
*Union Discount Company of London Ltd, (The)
*United Bank Ltd
United Dominions Trust Ltd
United International Bank Ltd

Wells Fargo Ltd
Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale
Western American Bank (Europe) Ltd
Williams, Glyn and Co
Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd

*Yorkshire Bank Ltd

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901. Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

Home exhibitions

Offshore international to feature advanced technology for deeper waters

Twelve British institutions with offshore development interests are backing an international exhibition and conference centred on new technology for commercial operations under water.

The fourth in a well-established world series, Oceanology International 78, to be held at Brighton from 5 to 10 March 1978, is expected to attract a record 450 exhibiting firms and organisations as well as 25,000 technical and executive visitors from more than 50 countries.

The opening, this year, of the National Conference Centre at Brighton, with the Metropole exhibition halls used previously, will allow the exhibition to double in size as well as provide an international home for the world conference.

Covering most technical aspects of seabed operations, Oceanology International is already recognised for its unique projection of underwater working. The emphasis for 1978 will be on new technology for commercial operations in deep water relating to the exploration, development and production of offshore oil and gas, and minerals.

OI was a British 'world first' when it made its debut in 1969, and has subsequently pursued its object in establishing the UK as the world centre for offshore operations.

Exhibits will embrace all aspects of offshore work – including surveying, geological and marine technology, instrumentation, surface operations, engineering, underwater work, civil and mechanical engineering, drilling, pipelaying, diving and underwater work.

Seaborne displays, including supply and support vessels, will be in nearby Newhaven and Shoreham harbours and off the Brighton shore.

The displays cover exploration, drilling, production, storage, pipe-laying, servicing and maintenance. Commanding special attention will be subsea completion systems, concrete gravity and tension leg structures, and various rig and platform 'packages'. Services will range from safety and rescue at sea – including fire fighting and the protection of rigs from fire – to iceberg plotting, tracking and trapping.

The five-day conference programme will include national progress reports from the leading countries with offshore interests. It is expected to attract over 2,000 delegates. Two full days are devoted to offshore rigs and platforms. Other sessions will include the latest developments in submersibles, support vessels, diving technology, systems for the acquisition and handling of ocean/weather data, instrumentation, deep-sea mineral recovery, and marine biology.

The 12 institutions arranging the event are: The Institution of Civil Engineers, The Concrete Society, The Welding Institute, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, The Institution of Structural Engineers, The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, The Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, The Challenger Society, The Institute of Marine Engineers, The Royal Institute of Naval Architects, The Society for Underwater Technology.

As in previous years, the 1978 event will be supported by the British government.

Further details are available from the organisers, BPS Exhibitions Ltd, 4 Seaford Court, 220-222 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5HH. (tel. 01-388 2117; telex 21237).

Lord Ryder to open 'Quality by Design'

Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, will open the Quality by Design exhibition at The Design Centre, London on 1 March.

The exhibition will demonstrate the approach of 12 of Britain's top companies and a major research organisation to quality and reliability. It will show what is involved in designing and manufacturing quality products which are reliable in operation in the bid for an increasing share of world markets.

Quality by Design in sponsored by the Design Council with the support of the Institute of Quality Assurance, British Standards Institution and the National Council for Quality and Reliability. It will be open from 2 to 26 March.

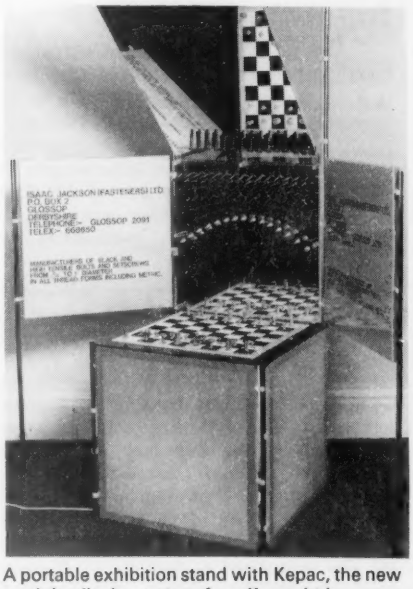
De Beers sponsors diamond tools event

For the first time in more than a decade an International Diamond Tools Exhibition and Conference is to be held in Britain.

Sponsored by De Beers Industrial Diamond Division and organised by Turret Press Ltd, the event will be at the Wembley Exhibition and Conference Centre, London from 28 June to 1 July.

The exhibition is to cover the widest possible spectrum of diamond tool manufacture and application. It will include diamond supplies, associated services, equipment and machinery/for metalworking, glass, civil engineering, stone, plastics and GRP, ceramics electronics, mining and mineral exploration.

The supporting conference will deal with metalworking and stone/concrete cutting.



A portable exhibition stand with Kepac, the new modular display system, from Kepac Ltd, Sheffield. Kepac is a 'boardless panel' made from light timber frames heat-welded into taut PVC envelopes. It is assembled by snap-on clips to poles and endless display shapes in different colour combinations can be created. Logos and identification names can be silk screened directly onto the modules. Above, a company's products are displayed on a translucent chess board reflected in Kepac Mirrorlite panels.

£10m income prediction

Brighton predicts that its exhibition and conference trade this year will be worth more than £10 million.

The estimated value for 1976, according to the Resort and Conference Services Department, was just over £9,200,000.

In 1976, 40 exhibitions and more than 300 conferences were staged in the town. They brought an estimated 94,200 delegates, wives, exhibition staff and other visitors. Exhibition visitors totalled more than 226,000.

Previous figures were, 1975 – 286 events with an estimated 89,600 participants; 1974 – 25 events and 18,500 visitors.

Labour saving

Centralised dictation systems will be among the main sectors of the National Word Processing exhibition and conference which the Business Equipment Trade Association is staging at the Cunard International Hotel, London, from 10 to 12 May. Doubled and trebled typist output is claimed as 'almost commonplace' as a result of their installation.

Automatic typewriting systems will provide another important sector of labour-saving developments.

New products

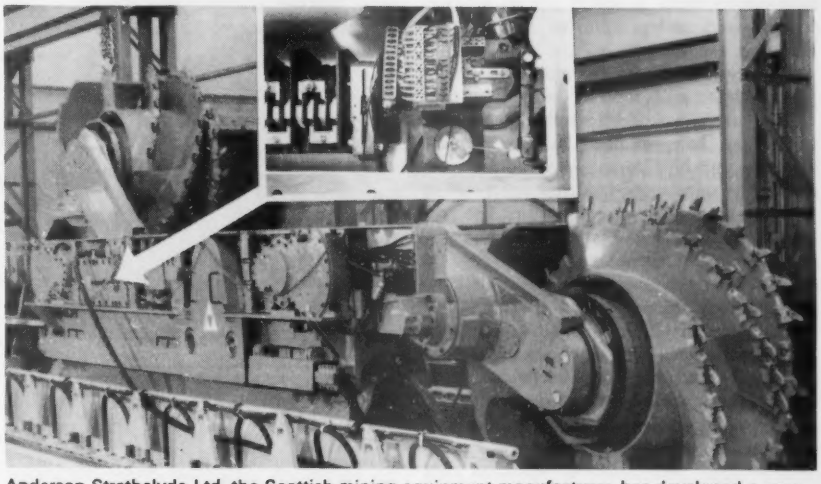
Lift platform can be towed by car

IBIS Engineers Ltd, Kendal, has introduced a hydraulic lift platform which can be towed by a saloon car on a normal towing hitch. The unit lifts a payload of 250 lb (113kg) on a 4 ft (122cm) wide railed platform to achieve a safe working height of 24 ft (7.3m) with a 100 per cent safety margin.

A battery operated telescopic boom enables a large working area to be covered without moving the trailer.

British designed and manufactured, the new Skyraker is described by the manufacturers as 'a profitable proposition to industry when used as an aid during the manufacture of large products or for plant maintenance and repair work where the Skyraker's manoeuvrability can supersede ladders and scaffolding.' It is claimed also that the 'budget price' extends its market to the smaller businesses.

Torque motor improves coal cutting characteristics

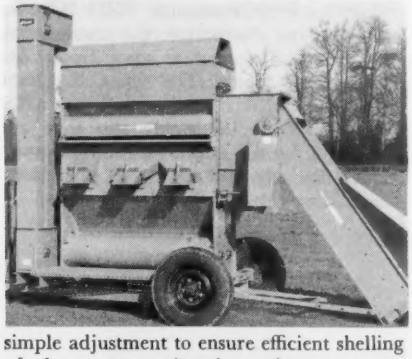


Anderson Strathclyde Ltd, the Scottish mining equipment manufacturer, has developed a new range of longwall coal cutting machines – the AM 500 series – at the heart of which lies a unique torque motor, specially designed and manufactured by Nelson Transformer and Rotary Equipment Ltd, of Colne, Lancashire, and said to provide speed control and overload safety switching.

Africa field testing for maize sheller

Ransomes has introduced a maize sheller mounted on a two-wheeled chassis for ease of movement and requiring minimum setting up for work. For the past two seasons it has been field tested in Africa.

The tractor pto-driven sheller provides a first grade sample and high output with



simple adjustment to ensure efficient shelling of the crop varying in moisture content and size of cob. With a good yielding crop it will husk and shell maize at 6,700 lb (3,100kg) per hour.

Cobs are loaded into a hopper and delivered by elevator to the shelling drum rotating inside a perforated metal cylindrical concave. The shelled maize falls into an auger trough for initial cleaning by fan blast, while stripped cobs and husks are ejected by an impeller. The maize is then conveyed for further cleaning and grading and passes through a final cleaning air blast before delivery to the bagging-off spouts.

Variable temperature soldering unit

The unit 101 50w soldering station developed by Adcola Products Ltd of London, offers accurate switched variable temperature control and features solid state construction for long term reliability. It is intended in the main for applications where accurate soldering temperature control is vital – the production of expensive printed circuit boards, laboratory and rectification work.

The main circuit design features a thermocouple positioned at the rear of the soldering bit feeding an operational amplifier which is switched via a zero crossing integrated circuit. This design avoids the need for moving parts which may wear and eliminates voltage transients in 'Spiking' and RF interference. Proportional control also ensures a precise temperature to within ± 2 per cent of the indicated dial temperature – the dial may be locked on to any specific temperature within the range 120-420°C.

For maximum safety in use the standard input voltage of 220/240v is converted to an output voltage of 24v.

The Unit 101 variable temperature soldering instrument from Adcola Products Ltd.

Mobile welding generator set

A dual purpose engine driven welding set and auxiliary power generator is being marketed by M.I.E. Power (Generators) Ltd, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

The new Powerweld, the company says, is ideal for factories, building sites, civil engineering projects, airfields, dockyards as well as other applications.

The unit is skid mounted and can also be supplied on a specially designed high speed road trailer.

The set has been designed to operate as a continuously rated self contained unit with a maximum welding current of 400 amps at 36 volts with an open circuit voltage of 60-90 volts and a minimum hand welding current of 50 amps.

A special feature is an auxiliary power take off which can be used when not welding, to provide electric power for emergency lighting or small power tools and machines.

Centreless finishing machine

A centreless grinding and finishing machine has been added to the range of finishing machinery manufactured by Moon Brothers Ltd of Birkenhead, Merseyside.

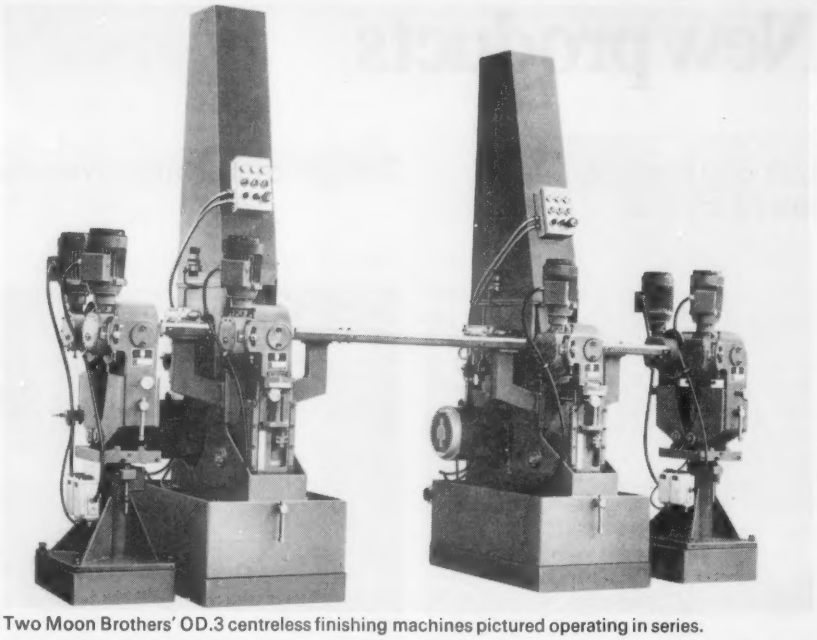
Model OD.3 is a heavy duty machine which, the company report, can also handle lightweight stock. It will finish all kinds of straight bars and tubes from 3 to 100mm diameter.

To cater for the heavier material weights processed on this type of equipment, the OD.3 has independent double feed rolls which can be positioned at any distance from the machine to support and feed the stock. Any number of feed roll units can be used with a machine, depending on the length of material to be processed.

A significant advantage claimed of the machine is the ease of adjustment to accommodate different tube and bar sizes.

Feed speed is infinitely variable from zero to 10m/minute. The stock passes under an abrasive belt banding attachment. High surface accuracy is ensured from the abrasive belt which is 150mm wide × 3,500mm long to give longer production runs between belt changes. There is easy access for belt changing through a solid door.

Belt tension is variable and is by compressed air, and the machine is equipped for either wet or dry working.



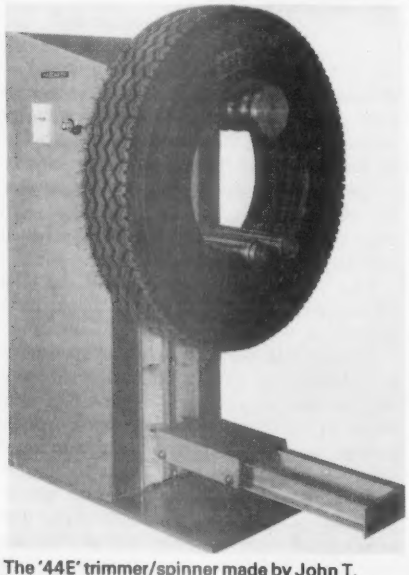
Two Moon Brothers' OD.3 centreless finishing machines pictured operating in series.

Simplified drive for tyre trimmer/spinner

John T. Hardaker Ltd, the Bradford engineering company, now manufacture the '44E' auto-tyre trimmer/spinner with a simplified drive arrangement.

The unit is power driven and uses pneumatic auto-positioning of the rollers to suit a variety of bead diameters and has a range of 10 in to 20 in or 12 in to 22in. It can be used as a 'trimmer', whereby a finished remould is rotated by the rollers and the 'rough-edges' removed by the operator, or a 'spinner', where the 'buffed casing' is rotated and either sprayed or brushed with a rubber solution by hand.

Hardakers describe themselves as the only company in the UK to design and manufacture a complete range of tyre re-treading machinery. They also produce inspection equipment, buffing machines and presses for both truck and passenger tyres.



The '44E' trimmer/spinner made by John T. Hardaker Ltd, Bradford.

Modular capacitor range from BICC

Considerable advantages are claimed by the manufacturer for a new modular range of capacitors for power factor correction of medium voltage industrial and commercial installations. Developed and now in production at the Capacitor Works, Helsby, Cheshire, of BICC Power Cables Ltd, the design is based on modules rated from 25 kvar to 100 kvar comprising one or two primary capacitors, with assembly permutations offering a high degree of flexibility.

The flexibility of the range is said to lie in the ease with which modules of any rating can be assembled into banks of from 25 kvar to 300 kvar, manually or automatically switched in from one to six stages. Isolators, cable boxes and relays are all offered in modular form as optional extras in order that installations may be readily tailored to meet customers' requirements.

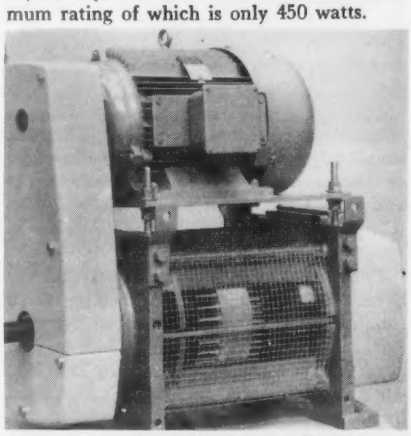
The modules are busbarred together and a universal cable entry provided, eliminating the need for costly, individual cabling. For larger total ratings than 300 kvar, the required capacitance can be achieved by installing modular assemblies in tandem.

The range has been designed to facilitate complete pre-assembly at the manufacturer's works and is inherently robust to withstand transport and handling. On-site installation and commissioning work is thus reduced to an absolute minimum.

Addition to variable speed drive range

Heenan Drives' range of VH-type drives now extends from ¾ to 30 horse-power with the addition of a third, more powerful series. The company's new VHO 51 series has been designed basically to cover outputs of from 7½ to 25 horse-power. It can also be supplied as a 30 horse-power unit but with a slightly reduced speed range.

Like its predecessors, the VHO 51 series consists of an electrical torque transmission unit driven at a constant speed by an AC squirrel-cage motor. The series has been designed so that it can operate on a 50 cycles or 60 cycles supply and they are controlled by the latest design of Heenan 76/6C thyristor excitation unit, the maximum rating of which is only 450 watts.



Heenan Drives, one of the Redman Heenan International group, has introduced this variable speed drive.

Publications

The EEC: company policy

Company policy for the EEC, by John Finnie and Keith Brierly. (113 pages. 1976. An Urwick Group business study published by The Financial Times Ltd. £20.00 plus postage. ISBN 0 900671 64 5.) This is intended as a basic research report for the guidance of companies interested in the European market. These are categorised as those wishing to increase their exports, those thinking of setting up in Europe, and those considering acquiring a European company. The study covers both the mechanics of investment in western Europe, and the present and future climate within which business operates. There is an opening discussion of trends in, and the advantages of, direct investment, followed by a survey of methods of entry and host country attitudes. The current position in a number of areas is reviewed, including taxation, labour and accounting, and guidance is offered in each area. Advice is given on the adaptations involved in setting up abroad and on European Community legislation. A statistical appendix and a short bibliography conclude the study.

Industry and commerce: a guide to performance measurement

Industrial Performance Analysis: a financial analysis of UK industry and commerce. ICC Business Ratios. (112 pages. Published by Business Ratios Division of Inter Company Comparisons Ltd, 81 City Road, London EC1Y 1BD. 2nd Edition 1976. £9.50.) The primary purpose of the new edition of this work is to provide a monitoring capability whereby the industrial performance of the leading sectors of UK industry can be measured on a comparative basis. This new ediiton summarises the progress achieved by the component elements of British industry and commerce over the three year period ending in 1975. The basis of comparison is provided by the presentation of financial data, which, when utilised within the context of inter-company performance, facilitates the compilation of much useful and comprehensive information in a concise and meaningful form. The data which makes up the text of this work are the result of aggregating the performance of some 50 sectors of commerce and industry. These sectors have been brought together under nine major industry group headings, plus one miscellaneous category. The industry groups are construction industry; chemicals and plastics; the drinks industry; the electrical and electronics industries; the engineering and metals industries; food industry; the motor industry; paper and printing, and the textile industry. In total, more than 2,350 companies' results have been investigated and subsequently collated for each of the three years 1972/3 to 1974/75. Each of these nine industrial headings is presented in sectoral tabular form and includes salient balance sheet and profit and loss account figures for the above three years. Individual company data is aggregated to provide sector results and, in turn, the sectors are totalled in order to obtain a composite industry figure. Fourteen key ratios are provided for most industries and these enable their relative performance to be judged within both the sectors of one industry and also with those of other industries. An added dimension is given to the information by the incorporation of graphs showing ratio trends which make up each industry. The ratios themselves are divided into two classes – overall financial indicators and employee ratios. The first of these consists of eight elements: profitability; profit margin; capital usage; return on capital; liquidity; stock turnover; credit period; and exports. The employee ratios cited are: profit per employee; average employee renumeration; sales per employee; capital employed per employee; sales per £ of employee, and, finally, capital employed per £ of employee renumeration. This dual analysis thus provides a two-pronged insight into industrial and commercial performance and allows the reader to judge both the general and the particular aspects of company behaviour. This volume is prefaced by full contents lists, an outline of the utility of the ratios, a note on the methods of compilation, together with a list of definitions and key ratios. The design of this volume makes it a ready source of reference for all those concerned with the UK's industrial and commercial activities. It also brings together, in one volume, information normally scattered through many sources.

Company secretaries: a guide to their duties

Duties of a Company Secretary, by Ronald R. Pitfield and Percy F. Hughes (359 pages. Available from Secretaries Journal Ltd, 98 Park Street, London W1. 1976. £6: £6.50 including postage.) This edition, the fourth, has been completely revised in accordance with the amendments made to both the 1948 and 1976 Companies Act and the changes brought about by the UK's entry into the EEC. The present volume is designed, basically, as a textbook for those papers in Company Secretarial Practice, English Company Law and Law and Procedure of Meetings, all of which form part of the examinations of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. In order to stress salient points, the main facts and fundamental principles are printed in bold type. The various sections of the book describe the duties which the company secretary is required, by law, to perform. The first two chapters deal with the registration, organisation and economic structure of a company. The third chapter is concerned with company membership and includes information about shareholding. Topics covered include contracts, borrowing, bookkeeping, accounts, meetings, reconstruction, amalgamation and winding-up. The final chapter has a section on foreign companies setting up branches in Great Britain and, in this connection cites and comments on three specific acts – the Exchange Control Act 1947, the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 and the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

Africa's industrial future

Africa's Industrial Future. Richard Bailey. (198 pages. Davison Publishing Ltd, Wessex House, Blandford Heights, Blandford, Dorset. 1976. £5.00. ISBN 0 904 130 096.) This publication is concerned with one aspect of the problem of development in Africa, namely, the methods of raising living standards through industrialisation in the African continent. It does not argue that policies of industrialisation could or should be adopted by all the African states. Nor does it contend that industrialisation can be achieved without the creation of new problems and possible harmful side effects. The author is an economist who has specialised in international economics at the highest levels, and has published several other publications in this field. He suggests that because Africa is the last of all the major regions to develop the integrated structure which will permit sustained and controlled industrial growth, the continent should learn from and avoid the mistakes of others, provided there is a correct evaluation of priorities and imaginative leadership.

Technology news

Healing wounds inside a transparent bag

BXL Scintillex, specialists in welding of flexible PVC sheet, together with the Biomechanical Research and Development Unit of the Department of Health and Social Security have produced a novel 'controlled environment treatment bag' for post-operative wound management.

Made by Cape Engineering Co Ltd of Warwick and known as 'Sterishield', it involves enclosing the limb in a transparent PVC treatment bag in which the environment is controlled in terms of bacteria, humidity, temperature, and pressure; this creates the optimum conditions for healing, and replaces ordinary dressings.

Among the advantages offered by this form of treatment are that it allows the surgeon to observe the wound during the healing process without jeopardizing its sterility.

At the same time, it helps the blood to circulate, there is less pain and no skill is needed to apply the dressing.

The treatment bag produced by BXL Scintillex is connected by a flexible hose to the Sterishield console housing the compressor and bacterial filter, ensuring pressure of air supply to the treatment bag oscillates within controllable limits so as to stimulate blood circulation and lymphatic return.

This system is already in use in the UK at Roehampton's Queen Mary's Hospital and in the USA at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Seattle, Washington. Assessments by these hospitals indicate that the treatment is well accepted by patients and by nursing and rehabilitation staff. It also has applications in burns treatment and reconstructive surgery.

Powder coating research programme

A three year joint research programme to study powder coating, particle behaviour and equipment design began recently at the universities of Southampton and Loughborough. The objectives of the research programme are to achieve: better understanding of the effect of the physical characteristics of powders – especially particle size, shape and size distribution – on overall application and coating performance, better powder transfer efficiencies, and effective control of coating thickness and surface finish.

The programme, which is being financed partly by the Science Research Council and partly by 14 British and foreign companies, is co-ordinated by a steering committee under the auspices of NRDC. The initiative for this new venture came from the two universities, each of which has been involved for a considerable time in the relevant technologies. Southampton's department of electrical engineering is well known for its existing work on electrostatic problems while the department of chemical engineering at Loughborough has built up an extensive expertise in powder technology. Both universities maintain close contacts with industry.

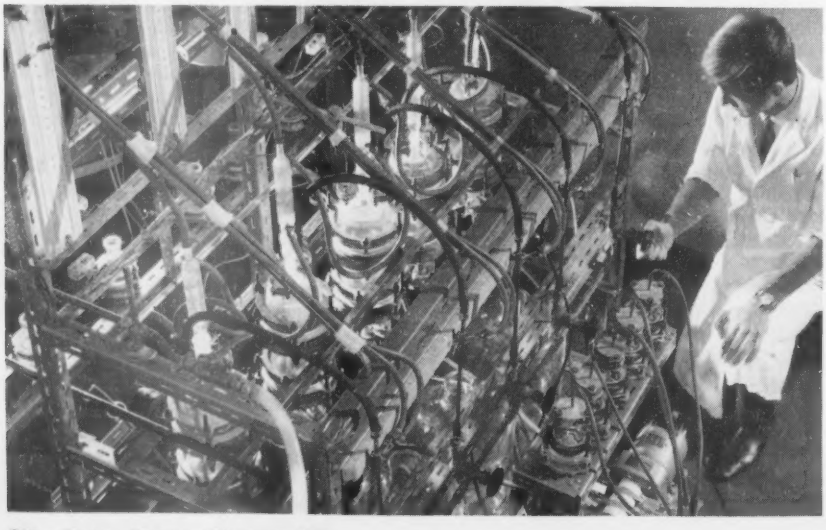
At Southampton the research programme will concentrate on the study of powder transfer efficiency and the powder coating itself. By using laser anemometry and optical techniques, powder trajectories from gun to object will be studied. The aim of the work is to ensure that almost all the powder leaving the application devices arrives on the object to be coated. Many parameters affect the surface finish and these will be studied.

Three particular areas have been isolated for the attention of project groups at Loughborough. The first group's task, vital for the further development of automatic plant, is concerned with the design of hoppers, injectors and pneumatic conveying systems capable of delivering a constant feed of powder to electrostatic guns. The second group will look at the design of spray booths, and the third at the effect of powder properties on the ultimate surface finish.

A full-scale industrial coating rig has been set up at Southampton and this will be used to test the new theories, processes and devices which result from the research work at both universities.

Desalination

A new chemical being investigated at the Harwell laboratories of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is likely to double the efficiency and reduce the cost of desalinating water by methods based on distillation. The equipment in the picture is designed to see how far different chemicals can prevent scale and corrosion in such plants. Now joint research by the AEA and the Ciba-Geigy company has led to the discovery of a chemical, Belgard EV, which, when added to the plant, prevents scaling and allows a higher and more effective operating temperature. This subsequently leads to a doubling of the amount of water available by desalination and to a 50 per cent reduction in the cost of recycling water in industrial treatment plants.



Sewage treatment

Wessex Water Authority and BOC Ltd together with the Water Research Centre and the Department of the Environment have carried out tests on a new sewage treatment method – injecting oxygen into sewers which have now proved highly successful.

The results of tests carried out on the five-mile pumping main from Bath to Saltford sewage treatment works show that this 'pre-treatment' method can improve considerably the quality of sewage arriving at the works, consequently improving the final effluent by between 30 per cent and 60 per cent.

Fit to drink

A new portable water filter and purifier which makes it possible to drink a glass of water drawn from St Katherine's Dock on the river Thames. Called 'Fresh-ness' and made by Thomas Ness Ltd, of Harrow, Middlesex, it is designed primarily for use in boats, caravans and when camping. Cleansing of the water is carried out by highly porous activated carbon and a special filter which removes tastes, odours, bacteria, chlorine, humic acids and dirt. The unit is fully effective for one year or for the processing of up to 9,100 litres of water and was designed and developed by a member company of the National Coal Board organisation.

Wave power test for Loch Ness

An Edinburgh University team's research into producing electricity from the waves is to be given a practical test at Loch Ness, in April.

Stephen Salter, a lecturer in engineering will set up a scale model of his system for two years to see if it works as well outside as it has in laboratory experiments over the last three years. If the tests prove successful, the next step could be the setting up of a prototype station for use in the Atlantic off the west coast.

For the quarter of a million pound experiment, financed jointly by the Department of Energy and private industry, 25 duck-shaped units made of fibreglass and about 2m high will be strung out over about 50m. As they bob to and fro they will turn a series of bearings which drive a piston pump by a chain, producing electricity.

It is expected that the ducks will produce about 50kW when the water is rough and about 30kW under normal conditions. The 30kW are reckoned to be enough to light 120 street lamps or three rooms, each burning 150 watt bulbs continuously in 60 homes. If the project is followed through, the ducks would be 10 times bigger and a complete unit a kilometre long would be equal to a 30 megawatt power station.

'The great advantage, as I see it,' says Stephen Salter, 'is that while our North Sea oil reserves will eventually dry up, wave power in the long term is as secure as we could possibly wish. While one of the United Kingdom's best areas is probably off the Hebrides, any location with a coastline and waves or surf – and that applies all over the world – has a potential alternative source of electricity.'

The Edinburgh team are aiming at a system which will cost about the same as a nuclear power station. Stephen Salter estimates that a prototype kilometre-long unit is likely to cost about £20 million, but believes this could be halved as more are built.

X-rays for divers

A specialist medical team based in Aberdeen have pioneered a new X-ray technique which could help to save the lives of divers injured in North Sea oil operations.

The compact, portable system has been developed by doctors and radiographers at the Scottish base of the diving company, Comex. It can be loaded on to a helicopter and flown immediately to the scene of an accident, enabling doctors to carry out an on the spot examination while the injured diver is still in a decompression chamber.

Because of the risk of fire, implosion of the X-ray tube head and the lack of an adequate power supply, it is not possible to take X-ray machines inside the diving chamber where the injured man must spend several days before he can be moved to hospital. The new system, using special clamping adaptors, takes X-ray photographs through portholes in the chamber, giving the medical team vital information on which to base their treatment of the case.

This helps in the diagnosis and treatment of the more serious accidents such as ruptured lungs, caused by a previously sustained injury or a too rapid ascent.

The other serious injuries common in diving accidents are pneumothorax, which occurs when air leaks from the lungs into the chest cavity causing the lung to collapse, mediastinal emphysema, the leakage of air into the soft tissues around the heart, and air embolism.

Accurate measurements for North Sea oil

Jiskoot Autocontrol Ltd of Tunbridge Wells have now designed and engineered the largest of their metering and prover stations destined for an oil production platform in the North Sea.

The skid-mounted station is over 10 metres long and will take at least three days to be transported on the road journey to the North of Scotland before being shipped out to the platform.

Today's high prices for crude oil have stimulated the development of systems of this kind to ensure very accurate measurement when the product is transferred.

Because the prover section was slightly larger than could be handled in their own shops this was sub-contracted, under supervision, to Simmons and Hawker Ltd of Feltham.

The instrumentation consists of three main components, a flow metering station, a local control panel, and a remote control console.

Solar heating for Brazil

A new solar heating system being checked before shipment to Brazil, where it will be used in the flats of British embassy staff. The 540 gallon system, which will provide hot water for eight flats, is manufactured by Don Engineering (South West) Ltd, of Wellington, Somerset.

Parliament

Monday, 17 January

Regional Employment Premiums

Robert Hicks (Bodmin) asked what effect the withdrawal of regional employment premium would have on the financial position and employment opportunities for companies located within the South West Assisted Area.

Mr Cryer answered: 'The effects of the withdrawal of REP will be offset by the additional resources being allocated to selective financial assistance to industry and by the extension of Temporary Employment Subsidy and the job creation schemes. Projects in the South West Assisted Area will be eligible to benefit from these measures.'

HS 176

Mrs Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked for a statement about the future of the HS176 project and the employment prospects for Hawker Siddeley Aviation (Hatfield).

Mr Huckfield said: 'Hawker Siddeley Aviation are currently completing an up-to-date assessment of the HS 146 project on the basis of which the government will be asking British Aerospace, or, pending nationalisation, the organising committee to make recommendations on the future of the project. In the meantime, work is continuing on the project only by virtue of government underwriting support. The government are fully aware of the need for new work at HSA Hatfield, as well as at other civil aircraft manufacturing sites, and wish the UK industry to take on as much profitable work as possible. My hon friend and the organising committee are currently engaged in a wide range of initiatives and consultations with this in view.'

Boeing 747

Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles) asked about the encouragement of production of the Boeing 747 powered by Rolls-Royce engines 'in view of its excellent performance as a civil and military aircraft'.

'My hon friend is right in what he says about this engine's performance,' said Mr Huckfield. 'The government currently provides substantial technical and financial assistance for the application of the RB211-524 engine to the Boeing 747 airliner which has been ordered in this form by British Airways. The Rolls-Royce powered aircraft is still undergoing the obligatory pre-delivery trials but we expect further orders to follow once the expected high standards of in-service performance can be demonstrated. In the meantime we continue to assist Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd in any way we can in pursuing possible sales prospects.'

Secretary of State for Trade's visit to Iran

Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds) asked the Secretary of State for Trade for a statement on his recent visit to Iran.

Mr Dell said: 'The purpose of my visit was to chair, with the Iranian Minister of Commerce, the fifth session of the Joint Ministerial Economic Commission with Iran. I also had an audience with His Imperial Majesty the Shah and discussions with the Iranian Prime Minister and several other Iranian ministers. My talks covered a wide range of matters concerning trade and economic co-operation between our two countries.'

Trilateral Commission

Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade or any of his officials had been engaged in discussions with the Trilateral Commission.

'No', said Mr Meacher. 'The Trilateral Commission is a non-governmental body composed of eminent people from North America, Japan, and Europe, and we shall study their conclusions with interest.'

Japanese steel bar exports

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked for assurances that the Japanese government's commitment to timely discussions on stainless steel bar exports to the United Kingdom in the second half of 1977 accepted in August 1976 as an alternative to pursuing an anti-dumping case on those products, would be effectively pursued as a separate commitment within the overall arrangement recently made between the EEC commission and Japan.

Mr Meacher answered: 'The EEC commission have agreed to discuss with the Japanese as soon as possible Japan's exports of stainless steel bar to the United Kingdom in the second half of 1977. There will be a preparatory discussion among member states and the commission in Brussels shortly.'

EEC anti-dumping powers

Mr Marshall referred to the complete reconstitution of the EEC commission as from 1 January and asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would take an early opportunity to obtain from the new commission full confirmation of the assurances given to him during 1976 that the protection against unfair competition at present afforded to UK industry by UK law as administered by his department would be no less effectively used when the commission assumed these responsibilities.

Mr Meacher replied: 'The commission has stated that it is of the opinion that there will be no reduction in the protection available to British industry as a result of the transfer of power in the anti-dumping field, I have no reason to doubt this.'

Registration of trade names

Ron Lewis (Carlisle) asked if, the Secretary of State for Trade would set up an inquiry to investigate the propriety of any firm manufacturing any goods bearing the name of a religious leader, past or present, with particular reference to the name Jesus in a Christian country.

'No', said Mr Clinton Davis. 'The present law relating to the application of names to goods in the course of trade gives adequate powers to control activities within the responsibilities of my department. It is declared unlawful by section 11 of the Trade Marks Act 1938 to register as a trade mark or part of a trade mark any matter the use of which would be contrary to law or morality, or any scandalous design. The Registrar of Trade Marks has acted in recent years to refuse registration on these grounds in respect of the words "Hallelujah" and "Jesus". In addition section 17 of the Companies Act provides that no company shall be registered by a name which in the opinion of the secretary of state is undesirable.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

British ownership of companies abroad

John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire) asked how many British companies in 1976 and 1975 owned companies abroad or had ownership interests in companies abroad; and for the complete figures for 1966 and 1965.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'The available information relates to the number of United Kingdom enterprises, other than those in oil, banking and insurance, with overseas branches, subsidiaries and associates at the end of 1971, and was given in table 42 of the Business Monitor M4 Overseas Transactions 1972 Part II, a copy of which is in the Library. Similar information in respect of the end of 1974 is due to be published in *Trade and Industry* next month.'

Export of calves

Roy Hughes (Newport) asked to which countries British calves had been exported and the number involved for each country, to the latest available date.

Mr Meacher gave the numbers exported during January-November 1976 as follows:

France	102,077
Italy	48,357
Belgium and Luxembourg	47,410
Netherlands	16,638
Irish Republic	13,309
Federal Republic of Germany	317
Iran	160

Faulty goods

Mr R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would hold an inquiry into allegations that faulty motor-car tyres are on widespread sale.

'I share my hon friend's concern about these allegations and any evidence of a breach of the Trade Descriptions Act should be reported immediately to the appropriate local authority trading standards officer,' Mr Maclennan replied. 'Any proposal for an inquiry into the sale of unsafe vehicle parts, including unsuitable tyres, would be a matter for my rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Transport.'

John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked about legislation concerning the obligation of manufacturers towards compensation to customers in receipt of faulty goods.

'When the Law Commissions report on their current reference on "Liability for Defective Products", we shall have the opportunity to consider this matter,' said Mr Fraser.

Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield West) asked if legislation would be introduced under the Sale of Goods Act to protect persons purchasing motor cars from either dealers or private individuals selling cars which are not roadworthy.

Mr Fraser said: 'The Sale of Goods Act confers on me no power to legislate by order. Such legislation appears, in any case, to be unnecessary since the Road Traffic Act 1972 already makes it unlawful to sell an unroadworthy vehicle.'

Hearing aid dispensers

Richard Luce (Shoreham) asked how many independent hearing aid dispensers are at present registered; how many there were each year from 1970 to date; and if they are evenly spread geographically; and also for the number of private registered hearing aid employees; and how many there were each year from 1970 to date.

Mr Fraser gave the numbers of hearing aid dispensers registered as follows. About two-thirds are self-employed and about one-third are employees. They appear to be evenly spread throughout Great Britain.

1970	746
1971	757
1972	744
1973	736
1974	734
1975	733
1976	766

Mr Luce asked how many complaints are received annually by the Hearing Aid Council about independent hearing aid dispensers; and what are the main types of complaint.

Mr Fraser answered: 'Since January 1970, 708 complaints have been received, ie about 100 annually. The main type of complaint is that made by elderly people who have changed their minds about a hearing aid they have bought, mainly because they cannot afford to pay for the aid, have since qualified for a NHS aid or have been unable to adjust to wearing one.'

Power plant industry

Giles Radice (Chester-le-Street) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what representations he had received to date on the conclusions of the CPRS report on the power plant industry, and when he would announce the government's decisions on the proposals contained in the report.

'I have received several representations on the report's conclusions and meetings are already taking place, or are being arranged, to obtain the views of the parties concerned', said Mr Williams. 'As already announced, final decisions on the report's conclusions will be taken in the light of these consultations.'

Brian Sedgemore (Luton West) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had any plans to enter into an agreement with GEC and its subsidiaries.

Mr Williams said: 'GEC has entered into operative planning agreement discussions in respect of its turbo-generator interests; further discussions are awaiting the outcome of government consideration of the CPRS report on the UK power plant manufacturing industry.'

Tuesday, 18 January

Civil Aviation Authority

Kenneth Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone) wanted to know the number of people employed by the Civil Aviation Authority in each quarter since its establishment.

Mr Clinton Davis gave the following number of staff on the authority's payroll at the end of each quarter over the two years from September 1974 to September 1976:

September 1974	8,490
December 1974	8,420
March 1975	8,496
June 1975	8,490
September 1975	8,446
December 1975	8,369
March 1976	8,296
June 1976	8,249
September 1976	8,137

Mr Clinton Davis went on: 'Quarterly statistics are not available before September 1974. The end-year figures of 8,272 and 8,270 quoted in the authority's annual reports for 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively are not comparable with those quoted above The lower figures excluded certain seconded staff. The figure for end-December 1976 is still being computed.'

Yorkshire

Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield) asked about Department of Industry grants to Yorkshire as a whole and West Yorkshire, respectively, during the last three years; and for comparisons with the number and amounts of grants given to Scotland and Wales.

Mr Williams replied that information in the form requested was not available. He gave estimates of expenditure on regional preferential expenditure for which the Department has responsibility as follows:

£ million

	Financial years		
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
Yorkshire and Humberside Intermediate area	9.6	16.0	23.0
Scotland	64.6	83.0	124.4
Wales	48.4	57.3	64.4

Notes:

a The figures include Regional Development Grants, Regional Selective Financial Assistance, the Investment Grant Differential, Local Employment Act residual expenditure and expenditure on land and factories. All figures are gross and include payments to nationalised industries.

b The figures do not include expenditure by the Offices for Scotland and Wales to which certain responsibilities for regional incentives were transferred during the course of 1975/76.

Mr Williams continued: 'Records of general expenditure under section 8 of the Industry Act (which is not confined to the Assisted Areas) are not kept on a regional basis, but as at 30 November 1976 assistance amounting to approximately £38 million had been approved for projects in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region in respect of the sectoral industry schemes (including the Wool Textile Scheme) and the accelerated projects scheme under Section 8; the comparable figure for Scotland is approximately £8.5 million, and for Wales £2.6 million.'

Cambridge Instrument Company

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked: 'How much public money has been committed altogether to the Cambridge Instrument Company Ltd, either by way of equity or of loan facilities, up to 14 January 1977?'

'I understand that the total is £7.5 million,' said Mr Huckfield.

Post Office

Questions on parcels and letters handled by the Post Office were asked by John Cockcroft (Nantwich)

Mr Huckfield answered that the proportions of inland and overseas mail posted by first and second class during the current and previous Christmas periods were:

	First class	Second class
1-24 December 1976	30.1%	69.9%
1-24 December 1975	30.9%	69.1%

These are unaudited figures.

The number of inland and overseas letters and parcels handled in the two Christmas periods were:

	Inland and overseas letters	Inland and overseas parcels
	million	million
1-24 December 1976	929.5	14.0
1-24 December 1975	904.9	15.2

These are unaudited figures.

The proportions of inland mail posted by first and second class during the first six months of the Post Office's financial year 1975-76, compared with the same period last year were as follows:

	First class	Second class
April-September 1975	34.5%	65.5%
April-September 1974	44.0%	56.0%

The number of inland parcels handled in the same periods were:

April-September 1975	80.2 million
April-September 1974	90.1 million

National Enterprise Board

Mr Grylls asked if the Industrial Development Advisory Board had given any advice on applications to date which had subsequently become the subject of section 3 direction to the NEB.

Mr Huckfield said: 'My rt hon friend has not yet issued a direction under section 3 of the Industry Act 1975, but the board has given advice on the loan of £30 million to British Leyland Ltd which it is proposed to direct the NEB to make.'

Mr Grylls asked what ceiling had been set on the amount of government funds that the NEB would receive by way of advances from the National Loans Fund or public dividend capital during the financial years 1976-77 and 1977-78.

'Loans to the NEB from the National Loans Fund or issues of Public Dividend Capital will be limited in aggregate to £225 million in 1976-77 and £275 million in 1977-78 exclusive of sums furnished under section 3 of the Industry Act 1975,' said Mr Huckfield.

Mr Grylls asked for a list of the shareholdings held by the National Enterprise Board at 14 January 1977.

Mr Huckfield gave the information as follows:

Wednesday, 19 January

EEC and UK aid to instrumentation and automation industries

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked for a statement upon the EEC commission's objections under article 93 to the UK government's scheme to aid instrumentation and automotive equipment.

Mr Cryer answered: 'The commission wished to examine the extent of the instrumentation and automation industry's problems in an EEC-wide context and the extent of intra-community trade before taking a decision as to the scheme's compatibility with the common market, in accordance with the terms of articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty of Rome. The procedure laid down in article 93 has been initiated as a means of obtaining further information and comments from member states.'

Ethylene crackers

Mr Skeet asked: 'What is the capacity of ethylene crackers in the UK including the joint ICI-BP project under construction at Teesside and what is the estimated likely capacity of ethylene crackers by 1985 bearing in mind market conditions for petrochemical derivatives: and how many additional plants could be accommodated bearing in mind market requirements and feedstock availability?'

Mr Williams replied: 'Ethylene capacity in the UK once the cracker building at Teesside is finished will be about 2.1 million tonnes a year. As my rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Industry told my hon friend the member for Leeds West on 10 November, the industrial strategy for petrochemicals developed by the tripartite working party of the National Economic Development Council and endorsed by the government foresees the construction of another four crackers by about 1985 to meet the expected growth of UK consumption and to make a major contribution to exports. This would imply up to nearly double the present capacity but, as my rt hon friend indicated, will depend on how prospective demand actually develops in the meantime and on the plans for increasing feedstock supplies now under consideration.'

R and D in shipbuilding and marine engineering

Mr W. E. Garrett (Wallsend) asked what amount was provided in each of the past five years to the latest available date by the government for support of research and development in shipbuilding and marine engineering: and what proportion this represented of the total research and development expenditure.

Mr Huckfield gave the Department of Industry expenditure in each of the past five years in Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering R and D as set out below. It represents about ¼ per cent of total expenditure on industrial innovation (public expenditure programme 4).

Year	On shipbuilding and marine engineering R & D (£ million)
1976/77	0.96 (estimated)
1975/76	0.92
1974/75	0.73
1973/74	0.39
1972/73	0.31

EEC regional funds

Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked for a table showing since 1 January 1976 the total grants made from EEC regional funds to the UK and giving details of the amounts and percentages allocated to the North East and Scotland, and the grant per head of population for the country as a whole and the specified region.

Mr Williams gave the information below:

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
FUND CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO UK PROJECTS IN 1976

	£'000	%	£ per head of population
Scotland	14,607	25	2 81
North East England	17,240	29	6.51
United Kingdom Eligible Areas*	59,131	100	2.30
United Kingdom	59,131	100	1.06

* Only projects located in the Assisted Areas of Great Britain and in Northern Ireland are eligible.

Mr Marshall asked for a list of UK projects currently receiving assistance from the European Regional Development Fund.

'The European commission has agreed that contributions from the European Regional Development Fund may be made

Company	Type of share	Number held by NEB	% held of nominal value of total equity	Cost	Stock Exchange closing price per share on 14.1.77
Agemaspark Ltd	£1 ordinary	3,700	30%	£100,000	not traded
	£1 redeemable preference	50,000		£50,000	not traded
Anglo-Venezuelan Railway Corporation	£1 ordinary	3 500	35%	£3,500	not traded
Brown Boveri Kent Ltd	25p ordinary	7,658,938	17.6%	£1,880,160	23p
Cambridge Instrument Co Ltd	10p ordinary voting	4,261,757	44.5%	£1,770,339	not traded
	1p ordinary voting	87,684,255			not traded
	1p ordinary non-voting	50,000,000		£500,000	not traded
British Leyland Ltd	50p ordinary	246,490,683	95.1%	£246,490,683	26p
Data Recording Instrument Co Ltd	£1 ordinary	2,400,000	53.9%	£2,400,000	not traded
Dunford and Elliott Ltd	25p ordinary	271,351	2.6%	£122,111	51p
Ferranti Ltd	50p ordinary voting	4,000,000	62.5%	£6,000,000	not traded
	50p ordinary non-voting	2,666,666		£2,666,666	not traded
Herbert Ltd	25p ordinary	43,632,948	100%	£26,196,114	not traded
International Computers (Holdings) Ltd	£1 ordinary	8,148,750	24.4%	£12,082,588	151p
Reed and Smith Holdings Ltd	50p ordinary	2,400,000	29.8%	£792,000	24p
Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd	£1 ordinary	175,000,000	100%	£175,000,000	not traded
Sinclair Radionics Ltd	£1 ordinary	75,000	42.9%	£450,000	not traded
	£1 redeemable preference	200,000		£200,000	not traded
Twinlock Ltd	10p ordinary	7,123,000	33.3%	£997,000	not traded

towards the cost of 1,239 projects in the United Kingdom,' said Mr Williams. 'Lists of these projects have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (vol. 19 C267 of 12 November 1976) and in *Trade and Industry* on 6 February, 7 May, 23 July and 24 December 1976.'

IDC refusals

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked what percentage of applications for industrial development certificates in the South East and Midlands regions were refused in each of the last six years; and what percentages these refusals represented expressed in terms of the firms' expectations of the employment involved.

Mr Williams gave these figures relating to schemes over 15,000 sq ft:

	Year	% of decided applications refused	% of estimated* additional employment refused
Midlands (East and West Midlands Economic Planning Regions)	1971	8.1	10.6
	1972	3.9	9.2
	1973	4.8	13.0
	1974	5.1	11.9
	1975	2.0	6.7
	1976 (Jan. to Nov.)	Nil	Nil
South East Planning Region	1971	7.8	9.2
	1972	5.6	10.2
	1973	8.1	10.1
	1974	8.6	15.2
	1975	1.9	1.4
	1976 (Jan. to Nov.)	1.7	0.5

* Applicants' estimates of the additional employment expected to arise when the projects are completed and fully manned.

Post Office

Mr Cockcroft asked for the estimated number of letters handled by postal business during the first half of its financial year 1975-76; compared with the same period of the previous year.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The Post Office informs me that the number of letters handled in the periods in question were:

1 April-4 October 1975	4,871 million
1 April-5 October 1974	5,261 million

Sugar prices

Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) spoke of the reduction in sugar prices and asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would take action to keep down the price of foods and confectionery in which sugar constitutes a substantial part.

Mr Maclennan answered: 'All the UK's supplies of sugar for domestic consumption are from UK and other EEC beet, and cane from the developing countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific associated with the community under the terms of the Lomé Convention. The support price of community sugar is negotiated annually by the Council of Agriculture Ministers and from this is derived the price paid to the ACP countries. There has been no recent reduction in this support price.'

Anglo-Polish trade

Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked for information on Polish laws and regulations requiring cargoes which might be transported in vessels built under the recent Anglo-Polish trade deal to be carried exclusively in vessels flying the Polish flag.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'I have no precise information on any such provisions in Polish laws and regulations. But in Poland, as in other East European countries, the practice of selling on a cif basis and buying fob is widespread. This effectively ensures control of the means by which the goods are transported.'

Mr Higgins also asked if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied that the terms of the recent Anglo-Polish trade deal would be consistent with agreements on export credit and other trade terms made with the OECD.

Mr Meacher replied: 'Yes. No special government concessions on export credit or otherwise have been promised in respect of any of the commercial deals concluded during the recent visit to London by the Prime Minister of the Polish People's Republic or in respect of other possible commercial deals which were discussed at the time of that visit.'

Russian order for civil aircraft fuel control systems

Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked for a statement on the present status of the proposed Russian order for £10 million worth of civil aircraft fuel control systems; and for an assurance that the Department of Trade would do everything possible to expedite this deal which would be of great benefit to employees of Lucas Aerospace in Birmingham and elsewhere.

Mr Meacher replied: 'Her Majesty's Government welcomes the contract signed by Lucas Aerospace and the Soviet Agency Licensintorg on 22 December last for the supply of fuel control systems for the civil NK 144 power plant for use in the TU 144 supersonic airliner. The company has kept in close touch with the government during the course of its negotiations and the contract is subject to government approval. As soon as all the necessary details are available steps will be taken to seek any necessary international clearance for the implementation of the deal.'

Thursday, 20 January

Chrysler UK trade with Iran

Joseph Dean (Leeds West) asked for a report on progress in the implementation of clause 9(4) of the agreement of 5 January 1976 between the government, Chrysler (UK) Ltd and the Chrysler Corporation relating to Chrysler United Kingdom's export trade to Iran.

Mr Varley said: 'Under clause 9(4) of the agreement of 5 January 1976 between the government, Chrylser United Kingdom Ltd and Chrysler Corporation, Chrysler Corporation undertakes to "use its best endeavours to procure that the Iran National Industrial Manufacturing Company shall continue to obtain from Chrysler UK as heretofore KD packs and parts for assembly into passenger motor vehicles."

'Chrysler have kept me informed of discussions with INIM directed to improving their joint working arrangements and safeguarding future volumes of supply to 1980 and beyond. In return for these improvements and at the request of their Iranian partners, Chrysler have agreed to waive the provision in their contract with INIM which limits the latter to trading in their cars only.

'While in Iran last week for the fifth Session of the Iran/UK Joint Ministerial Economic Commission, my rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Trade discussed with the Iranian government, within the context of the joint commission, the relationship between the two companies and their intentions for future development. I am satisfied that the modification proposed in the agreement between the two companies does not diminish the safeguards for the supply of packs and parts from this country.'

British Shipbuilding and British Aerospace

Kenneth Warren (Hastings) wanted to know the amounts of money paid by the British Shipbuilding Organising Committee and by the British Aerospace Organising Committee to companies, or their employees, which are scheduled to be nationalised.

Mr Huckfield answered, for British Shipbuilders, £34,480 in respect of salaries and expenses of members, staff, and working party of the organising committee and for British Aerospace £15.65 in respect of expenses.

Mr Warren also asked for detailed breakdowns of the cost of the British Aerospace and British Shipbuilding Organising Committees to date.

Mr Huckfield gave the payments by the organising committees up to 31 December 1976, as follows:

British Aerospace	£
Gross salary costs	76,200
Accommodation	22,500
Other expenses	5,800
	104,500
British Shipbuilders	**£**
Gross salary costs	151,200
Accommodation	114,500
Other expenses	116,300
	382,000

Financial assistance to industry

Mr Grylls asked questions on the total value of grants made up to 31 December 1976 under the Textile Machinery Scheme; and the Printing Machinery Scheme.

Mr Williams answered: 'No grants had been made up to 31 December 1976. Details of selective financial assistance, including assistance offered to the textile and printing machinery industries, are published quarterly in the Department of Industry's publication *Trade and Industry* as announced by my rt hon friend, the then Secretary of State for Industry, on 31 July 1974, *Official Report* col 371.'

Mr Grylls asked similar questions in respect of other schemes.

Mr Williams replied as follows:

Poultry and meat Offers of grant made up to 31 December 1976 under the Poultrymeat Processing Industry Scheme amounted to £681,700. Fourteen projects were covered by these offers, the principal purpose of which is to assist the applicants to improve or modify their premises and equipment in response to the requirements of EEC Directive 71/118 as amended by 75/431. No offers have yet been made in respect of the Redmeat Processing Scheme announced on 9 November 1976.

Machine tools Formal offers of grants totalling £2,517,000 were made under the Machine Tool Scheme up to 31 December 1976; these

offers related to 15 projects covering product development, the purchase of plant and machinery and the extension or modification of factory premises.

Wool textiles The total value of grants made up to 31 December 1976 under the Wool Textile Scheme was £10,458,237; this amount covered 263 projects the principal purpose of these grants was to encourage re-equipment, rebuilding and rationalisation within the wool textile industry and to eliminate marginal capacity.

Ferrous foundries £22,122,620 had been offered towards 135 projects. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage modernisation and development of the ferrous foundry industry.

Paper and board The total value of assistance approved under this scheme by 31 December 1976 was £4,103,000, covering 15 projects. The principal purpose of the grants is to assist the paper and board industry to increase its use of indigenous fibres, thus improving its competitiveness, and providing savings on the balance of payments.

Clothing industry The total amount of assistance offered under the Clothing Industry Scheme up to 31 December 1976 was £827,300, of which £170,800 had actually been paid. Of this total, £120,700 was offered towards 64 consultancy projects and the remaining £696,600 towards the cost of 29 investment and restructuring projects. The purpose of the scheme is to promote the improvement of productivity and efficiency and to encourage rationalisation and restructuring in the clothing industry.

'The House was informed, on 7 December 1976, of improvements to the terms of assistance available to firms under this scheme, and the above figures include some projects where offers of assistance have been made at the new higher rate,' said Mr Williams.

ECGD

John Moore (Croydon Central) asked for the number of people currently employed in the Export Credits Guarantee Department; and what categories of staff are included in the 40 additional posts envisaged in this department as a consequence of the International Finance, Trade and Aid Bill.

'There are currently 1,946 people employed in the Export Credits Guarantee Department,' said Mr Meacher. 'It is expected that up to 40 extra staff in the Administration Group ranging from Clerical Officer to Senior Principal will be required as the new foreign currency facilities develop.'

Timber imports

Michael Latham (Melton) asked: 'What is the total cost for the year 1976 of timber and timber product imports?'

'The latest figures available relate to January-November 1976 when imports were valued at £1,800 million cif,' said Mr Meacher.

Info-Line Ltd

Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry has any plans to provide a state-owned commercial on-line computer company to offer access to technical and scientific information.

'The Department of Industry has joined in sponsoring a company, Info-Line Ltd, to develop and operate "on-line" computer-based information retrieval services,' said Mr Huckfield.

Sperm oil

Questions on discussions with the leather industry on using sperm oil from whales were asked by Tam Dalyell (West Lothian).

Mr Williams said: 'I have recently had discussions with representatives of the leather industry and oil refiners to determine more clearly the effects of a restriction in sperm whale oil supplies.'

Mr Williams continued, in reply to further questions, 'From discussions with industry it has been estimated that UK exports of leather and leather goods could decline perhaps by as much as 20-25 per cent and between 10 and 20 per cent of the workforce in the leather industry may be affected if supplies of sperm whale oil were totally cut off. There may also be some effect on other sectors of industry.

'The report commissioned by the Department of Industry, entitled "The Utilisation of Sperm Oil by the Leather Industry" prepared by the British Leather Manufacturers Association (a copy of which is in the Library of the House), highlighted the difficulties companies in the leather industry would face in finding substitutes for sperm whale oil.

'Officials of the Department of Industry are attempting to encourage a co-ordinated approach to research into substitutes.'

Mr Williams also said: 'My discussions with the leather industry have not been conducted on the basis that the sperm whale will cease to exist. As my rt hon friend the Minister of State for Agriculture has stated the sperm whale is not endangered and its exploitation is strictly controlled by quotas through the International Whaling Commission.'

Aircraft noise

Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked: 'What arrangements have been made to monitor the noise levels associated with the approach procedures for aircraft landing at Heathrow?'

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'Measures will be taken under the approach paths. The revised procedures introduced recently on a trial basis are designed to reduce noise where possible. Changes in engine thrust may occur over different areas but nowhere will higher noise levels be experienced.'

Mr Hayhoe also asked for a table giving the total number of landings and of departures in respect of Heathrow for each month during 1976 together with the figures for the night period and for the hour before and for the hour after.

Mr Clinton Davis gave the following information:

Total aircraft movements:

	Landings	Take-offs
January	10,666	10,672
February	10,002	9,998
March	11,065	11,074
April	11,324	11,328
May	12,094	12,086
June	12,036	12,036
July	12,972	12,990
August	12,825	12,814
September	12,598	12,603
October	12,278	12,257
November	10,511	10,525
December	10,355	10,344

Jet movements in restricted night hours:

	Movements
1 January-3 January	508
1 February-28 February	459
29 February-31 March	454

	Landings	Take-offs
1 April-28 April	155	18
29 April-2 June	155	16
3 June-30 June	134	21
1 July-28 July	165	25
29 July-1 September	250	27
2 September-29 September	190	17
30 September-31 October	217	20

	Movements
1 November-28 November	387
29 November-27 December	478

The hours during which the numerical restrictions on night jet movements apply are:

Departures
23.30-06.30 hours (local) Mondays-Saturdays, except that noise certificated aircraft are exempt between 06.00 and 06.30 hours. 23.30-08.00 hours on Sundays.

Arrivals
23.30-06.00 hours every day.
During the winter period (1 November-31 March), the department does not record night jet landings separately from night jet take-offs. Information on the hour before and the hour after the night period is not available.

Food prices

Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked by how much food prices have risen in the last 12 months.

Mr Maclennan answered that the food index had risen by 22.0 per cent between 11 November 1975 and 16 November 1976 (the latest available date).

Office of Fair Trading

'What has been the cost to public funds, to date, of the Office of Fair Trading?' asked Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield).

'£2,269,503 to 31 December 1976,' said Mr Fraser.

Metrication

Mr Winterton asked: 'When will it be illegal to sell goods affected by the Metrication Act in imperial measures; and when will it be illegal to mention imperial equivalents on goods?'

Mr Fraser said: 'I made it clear during the passage of the Weights and Measures, etc, Act 1976 that my department will report to parliament each year on the progress so far made in metrication. These reports will also include a forecast of further developments in the metrication programme and how they will be linked with consumer protection, information and education. These forecasts which will inevitably be tentative will set the stage for consultation with trade, industry and consumer organisations and will provide a background against which each step towards metrication can be seen in perspective. I hope to make the first report before Easter but I

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no 01-215 5051.)

cannot anticipate its contents since it is still a subject of preliminary consultations with interested organisations.'

Friday, 21 January

Recommended retail prices

Bruce Grocott (Lichfield and Tamworth) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would act on the recommendations made to him by the Price Commission that the practice of recommending retail prices for small electrical goods should cease.

Mr Hattersley's answer is on page 225.

Pollution at sea

John Prescott (Kingston upon Hull East) asked for a report on progress in bringing into force the 1969 amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil 1954.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'The amendments will come into force 12 months after they have been accepted by two-thirds of the contracting parties to the convention. I understand that the necessary number of acceptances has now been received and the amendments will come into force on 19 January 1978. These amendments, which have been mandatory on British ships since 1973, mark a substantial step forward in the international battle against pollution at sea.'

(*See 'The UK and cleaner seas' page 229 of this issue*).

Company financing

John Moore (Croydon Central) asked 'What were the total sums for investment provided from: (a) internally generated funds, including reinvested profits, (b) equity raised publicly, (c) debt raised publicly or from financial institutions and (d) funds advanced by government in the UK the USA and West Germany; and what percentages of total investment do these figures represent in each category?'

Mr Huckfield replied, 'Individual sources of companies' funds cannot be related to particular uses of funds. Statistics of the sources and uses of UK companies' funds are published regularly in *Financial Statistics*. They were analysed in an article on the "Structure of company financing" published in the September 1975 issue of *Economic Trends* which is to be brought up to date shortly in an article in *Trade and Industry*. Some international comparisons may be made from the annual OECD publication *Financial Statistics*.'

Government sales

Ministry of Defence
Sales by auction

1 February 1977

Location
RAF Colerne (seven miles east of Bath), Chippenham, Wilts

Auctioneers
Hobbs and Chambers (Dept L), The Market Place, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1QQ (tel. 0285-4736)

5 February 1977

Location
RAF Stanmore Park, Middx

Auctioneers
Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

The above two sales each comprise approximately 600 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities for the benefit of personal buyers.

9 and 10 February 1977 – Vehicles, Earthmoving and Lifting Equipment

Location
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot RAOC, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers
Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham NG1 2GL (tel. 0602-54272)

Three hundred and fifty commercial vehicles including heavy duty trucks and tractors by AEC, Leyland and Scammell, Alvis airfield crash tenders, 90 trailers, refuellers, fire tenders, Bedford RL and TK trucks and tractor units, forklift trucks, mobile cranes, loading shovels, 700 saloons, limousines, estate cars, minibuses and light vans (including 230 Morris Mini and Minor 1000 saloons and Travellers), coaches, 180 Land-Rovers and plant spares. The majority of the vehicles will be offered as single lots.

16 February 1977 – Miscellaneous Stores

Location
Post House Hotel, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers
Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292-4211)

The lots are lying at various depots in Hampshire and include MT spares, tyres, trailers, jerrycans, land and machine tools, furniture, clothing and textiles. Electrical, photographic and optical goods and many other interesting items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Wembley Auction Sales 1977

1 February 1977

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available direct from the auctioneers price 10p.

ENCIRCLE TI 367 ON PAGE 279 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

European community news

UK calls for urgent action on fisheries conservation

Britain is informing the EEC commission of four measures which this country regards as the most urgent as far as fisheries conservation is concerned. And, said Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food John Silkin, 'we hope to see them introduced on a community basis, but if this is not possible then we are entitled under the Hague agreement to introduce them ourselves.'

Replying to a parliamentary question on 20 January, Mr Silkin said that the four measures were a ban on herring fishing in the North Sea; a restriction of the area in which Norway pout may be taken at the expense of white fish stocks; a stricter control on by-catches; and a prohibition on the carrying of nets of different mesh sizes on the same voyage.

He explained that negotiations on a number of important issues affecting the future of the common fisheries policy were continuing. Discussion had so far centred mainly on conservation measures, and on fishing by non-member countries in the waters of community states, where good progress was being achieved.

On conservation measures, he said that Britain's object has been to obtain agreement to the urgent introduction of specific conservation measures needed to conserve the fish stocks on which the future of the British industry depended.

'While we have agreed the temporary standstill in catch and not to introduce new conservation measures on a national basis in January, it would be dangerous to allow the present situation in which there is no adequate control on fishing to continue indefinitely.'

Silkin proposes assistance for pig producers

The method of calculating monetary compensatory amounts on UK imports of bacon and other pigmeat should be changed, said John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in reply to Commons questions on 20 January. The present method was unfair to producers and processors in the UK, he said, adding 'I have proposed to the EEC council of ministers that a fairer method be adopted.'

In the meantime, UK producers were facing very real difficulties, he said. Sow slaughterings were at a disturbingly high level and the breeding herd was being run down. The risk to UK pig supplies was obvious.

The government had therefore decided to introduce a temporary subsidy of 5.5p per kilogram deadweight (50p per score) on pigs certified under terms and conditions similar to those which applied under previous subsidy schemes. These payments would rest on the authority of the estimates and the confirming appropriation act. Supplementary estimates would be presented in due course and meanwhile, if necessary, recourse would be had to the contingencies fund. The necessary administrative arrangements were being made with a view to accepting pigs for certification from Monday, 31 January.

'I believe that this action will be welcomed by all concerned in the industry as a positive step to help them meet their immediate difficulties,' Mr Silkin concluded.

Latest in UK-West German series of summits

Prime Minister James Callaghan (left), talking with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, who was in the UK on 23 and 24 January for their latest six-monthly meeting. The Chancellor was accompanied by German ministers for foreign, financial, defence and economic affairs.

UK chairs first council

Progress on trade talks with Japan, relations with Portugal and fisheries were among the subjects discussed by EEC foreign ministers at this year's first foreign council – and the first of the UK presidency – on 18 January.

Reporting to the House of Commons on 19 January, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Anthony Crosland said that he was accompanied in Brussels by Minister of State David Owen, and Parliamentary Under-Secretary John Tomlinson. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Scottish Office had also attended for the fisheries discussion.

First, said Mr Crosland, ministers reviewed the progress made, following the statement by the heads of government at the European council in November, on talks with Japan about the current imbalance in trade. It became clear that very little progress had been made and the council instructed the commission to renew the talks – especially on shipbuilding – and to report back to the next council.

Relations with Portugal were discussed in the light of Dr Soares's forthcoming visits in the community and the possibility of a Portuguese application for membership. Ministers agreed, he said, that they must find a way of reconciling the need for political support for a democratic Portugal, on which member governments were wholly agreed, with the economic problems which membership could entail both for Portugal and for the community. Ministers would come back to the subject in February.

On fisheries, Mr Crosland said that the

council 'had a useful and constructive discussion'. 'Most important, we agreed that further communications should be made by the presidency to the USSR, Poland and the GDR, drawing attention to the continued excessive levels of their fishing in the waters of community member states, and laying down the precise number of their trawlers which would be permitted to fish for the remainder of the three-month interim period.' Only the authorised number of vessels would be licensed to fish and it would be the responsibility of member states to operate and enforce this initial licensing system, he said.

Ministers did not reach agreement on a regulation governing the details of a future community licensing system, but discussion was continuing.

A technical point concerning the preparations for the meeting of the general committee of the Euro-Arab dialogue in Tunis next month was remitted for further study and two detailed points concerning new accessions to the Lomé convention were quickly resolved.

Mr Crosland explained that, during the council, preferential trade agreements were signed between the community, and Egypt, Jordan and Syria (see below) and said that a similar agreement with Israel would be signed on 8 February, which would virtually complete the implementation of the community's overall approach to the countries of the Mediterranean area.

Ministers reviewed the prospects for the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation and agreed on a programme of work to prepare a community position on the issues involved.

Mashraq agreements signed in Brussels

Co-operation agreements between the European Economic Community and the Mashraq countries (the Arab Republic of Egypt, Jordan and Syria), as well as the agreements between the European Coal and Steel Community and each of those countries, were signed during a joint ceremony in Brussels on 18 January. Interim agreements on trade in goods were also signed.

Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and current president of the council of ministers, represented the community at the signature ceremony, together with Claude Cheysson, commissioner responsible for development aid.

Details of the agreements will be published shortly in *Trade and Industry*.

Commission proposes to harmonise commercial agents' laws

The commission has submitted to the council a proposal for a directive to co-ordinate the laws of member states relating to commercial agents. It deals with the legal relationship between commercial agents – described in the proposal as independent persons or companies acting in the name of the principal and negotiating or concluding business on his behalf on a continuing basis – and their principals.

Its main purposes are to reduce differences in the laws of member states, which the commission considers to be detrimental to the functioning of the common market, and to strengthen the position of the commercial agent vis-a-vis his principal.

The proposal comprises detailed rules governing the main aspects of the relationships it affects. Matters covered include a definition of 'commercial agent', the rights and duties of the parties, remuneration and expenses, *del credere* agreements, commercial agents' rights in the bankruptcy or insolvency of the principal, termination of agency contracts, entitlement to a 'goodwill indemnity' lump sum from the principal on termination of the agency, and agreements restricting competition by commercial agents.

Further information may be obtained from the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel 01-215 4301.

EEC commissioners in London – this week

Henk Vredeling (right), commissioner responsible for employment and social affairs, who was in London for a one-day visit on 24 January, with Secretary of State for Employment Albert Booth. Their discussions covered unemployment and methods to tackle unemployment.

. . . . and last week

Guido Brunner (right), commissioner responsible for energy, research and science and education, pictured with Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, on 20 January. Their talks covered the question of the siting of the community's joint European torus (Jet) thermonuclear fusion project.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

Home news
Bullock report on industrial democracy 221

Publications
The EEC: company policy 237

Parliament
Japanese steel bar exports 240
EEC anti-dumping powers 240
Aid to instrumentation and automation industries 242
Regional funds 242
Sugar prices 243

Overseas trade news
British export performance not yet good enough – Dell 253
Customs study group proposes quicker export documentation 255
Spanish steel: provisional anti-dumping charge extended 256

Country data
Belgium 258, Italy 259, Netherlands 260, United States 261

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and directive which affect various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

Poultry and poultrymeat. Directive 77/27/EEC on health marking of large packagings of fresh poultrymeat (*Official Journal* L6, 8 January 1977).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 61/77 amending regulation (EEC) 2804/76 on the distillation of wines suitable for producing certain potable spirits obtained from wine with a registered designation of origin for the 1976-77 marketing year (*Official Journal* L11, 14 January 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 63/77 amending for the fifth time regulation (EEC) 1143/74 as regards the amount of subsidies for certain wine products consigned to Ireland or to the United Kingdom during the period 1 January to 30 June 1977 (*Official Journal* L11, 14 January 1977).

Harmonisation of legislation

Classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L360, 30 December 1976 contains the text of directive 76/907/EEC adapting to technical progress directive 67/548/EEC concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances by replacing the following:

Annex I: List of dangerous substances classified in the order of the atomic number of the element most characteristic of their properties.

Annex III: Nature of the special risks attaching to dangerous substances.

Annex IV: Safety advice concerning dangerous chemical substances.

Copies of *Official Journal* L360 may be obtained from HMSO price £4.85 plus postage.

Further information: Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2, tel. 01-229 3456 ext 547.

EEC pattern approvals. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* C9, 13 January 1977, contains a notice about EEC pattern approvals, published in application of directive 71/316/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of metrological control. The pattern approvals are for gas meters, non-automatic weighing machines, and meters for liquids other than water.

Copies of *Official Journal* C9 may be obtained from HMSO, price 70p plus postage.

Commercial policy

Textile imports. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L366, 31 December 1976 contains the text of regulation (EEC) 3229/76 on the administration of quantitative limits on imports of certain textile products originating in Hong Kong.

Further information: Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textiles Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 4113.

EEC rules of competition

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L357 of 29 December 1976 contains the text of a commission decision dated 1 December 1976 relating to a proceeding under article 85 of the treaty of Rome:

76/915/EEC – Miller International Schallplatten GmbH (reference DGIV 29.018) concerning exclusive dealing agreements with sole distributors in member states in respect of the sale of low-priced gramophone records. The commission found that export prohibition clauses contained in the agreements until May 1975 infringed article 85 (1) of the treaty and imposed a fine of 70,000 units of account to be paid within three months of notification of this decision.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

Official publications on community matters

The following publications, issued by the Statistical Office of the European Communities during the period 1 November to 31 December 1976 can be ordered from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, quoting the standard book number given in parentheses after each title.

Social Statistics: Special Series 6A. Structure of Earnings in Industry 1972. BR Deutschland. General Results. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 750pp. (0 11 935965 0). £5.50 (£6.35)

Monthly Tables of Transport 1/9 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I). 30pp. (0 11 935985 5). 85p (99p).

Coal Statistics 1975. (September 1976). (E-F-G-D-Da-I). 74pp. (0 11 936007 1). £1.85 (£2.02).

Crop Production. 8 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 84pp. (0 11 936005 5). £2.50 (£2.70).

Monthly General Statistics Bulletin. 9 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 188pp. (0 11 936002 0). £1.85 (£2.17).

Monthly Statistics of Meat. 9 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 144pp. (0 11 936003 9). £3.25 (£3.51).

Monthly Statistics of Milk. 10 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 88pp. (0 11 936006 3). £2.25 (£2.52).

Regional Accounts. Economic Aggregates. 1970. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 218pp. + 11 folded insets + 1 folded map. (0 11 936008 x). £4.25 (£4.72).

Selling Prices of Agricultural Products 9/10 – 1976. (With Supplement.) (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 140pp. + illus + 24pp. illus. Supplement. (0 11 936004 7).£3.25(£3.54).

Quarterly Iron and Steel Statistical Bulletin. 3 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 346pp. + 2 folded insets. (0 11 936009 8). £6.25 (£6.80).

Community Survey of Orchard Fruit Trees. 1976. (E-F-G-Da.) 184pp. (0 11 936027 6). £7.30 (£7.77).

Monthly External Trade Bulletin. 10 – 1976. (With Supplement: EC Trade by Commodity Classes and Main Countries: January-June 1976). (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 133pp + Supplement 29pp. (0 11 936033 0). £1.85 (£2.17).

Crop Production. 9 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 60pp. (0 11 936045 4). £2.50 (£2.64)

Monthly Statistics of Eggs. 10 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) 80pp. (0 11 936046 2). £2.25 (£2.42).

Social Statistics. 6 – 1975. Labour Costs in Industry 1972-75. 460pp. (0 11 936047 0). £2.80 (£3.50).

Statistical Yearbook of Transport, Communications, Tourism, 1974. (E-F). 120pp. (0 11 936048 9). £3.70 (£4.02).

National Accounts ESA Aggregates 1960-75. Yearbook 1976. (E-F-D). 106pp. (0 11 936063 2). £3.10 (£3.33).

Community Input and Output Tables. 1970-75. Methodology. (Special Series.) 1 – 1976. 40pp. (0 11 936072 1). £4.25 (£4.36).

Monthly External Trade Bulletin. 11 – 1976. (E-F-G-D-Da-I). 110pp. (0 11 936095 0). £1.85 (£2.08)

Foreign Trade Analytical Tables. Nimexe – 1975. (E-F-G-D-Da-I.) Countries – Products. 268pp. (0 11 936086 1). £14.60 (£15.07).

Vol A: Chapters 1-24. Live Animals and Animal and Vegetable Products; Fats and Oils; Foodstuffs, Beverages and Tobacco. 520pp. (0 11 936074 8). £14.60 (£15.30)

Vol B: Chapters 25-27. Mineral Products. 126pp. (0 11 936075 6). £2.40 (£2.66)

Vol C: Chapters 28-38. Products of the Chemical and Allied Industries. 544pp. (0 11 936076 4). £14.60 (£15.30)

Vol D: Chapters 39-43. Plastics, Rubber, Raw Hides and Skins, Leather, Furskins and articles thereof; Saddlery and Harness; Morocco Leather Goods; Travel Goods. 252pp. (0 11 936077 2). £6.20 (£6.67)

Vol E: Chapters 44-49. Wood, Cork, Paper, Paperboard and articles thereof; Manufactures of Plaiting Materials and Basketware. 206pp. (0 11 936078 0). £6.20 (£6.67)

Vol F: Chapters 50-67. Textiles and Textile articles; Shoes; Headgear; Umbrellas and Sunshades. 594pp. (0 11 936079 9). £17.20 (£17.90)

Vol G: Chapters 68-72. Articles of Stone, of Plaster, of Cement; Ceramics; Glass and Glassware; Pearls, Precious Stones, Jewellery; Coins. 206pp. (0 11 936080 2). £6.20 (£6.67)

Vol H: Chapter 73. Iron and Steel. 300pp. (0 11 936801 0). £8.60 (£9.15)

Vol I: Chapters 74-83. Base Metals (except Iron and Steel) and articles thereof. 238pp. (0 11 936082 9). £6.20 (£6.67)

Vol J: Chapters 84-85. Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electro-technical Apparatus. 906pp. (0 11 936083 7). £24.50 (£25.35)

Vol K: Chapters 86-89. Means of Transportation. 180pp. (0 11 936084 5). £4.20 (£4.52)

Vol L: Chapters 90-99. Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic and Medical Instruments, Apparatus and Appliances; Precision Instruments; Clocks and Watches; Musical Instruments; Sound Recorders and Reproducers; Arms and Ammunitions; Miscellaneous articles. 352pp. (0 11 936085 3). £11.00 (£11.55)

(The complete set, ie Vols A-L plus Countries – Products is available at the special price of £110 the set. Anybody ordering the complete set should quote ISBN 0 11 936087 x).

Product liability concept reinforced by European events – Fraser

Referring to a growing momentum on product liability John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said that the imposition of a system of strict liability without fault in the United States and some European countries was bound to have an effect upon those manufacturing countries which exported to them. Even if

countries ignored the concept for their own consumers, he said, they could not ignore it from their customers overseas.

Making the opening speech to the first world congress on product liability in London on 20 January, Mr Fraser explained that the momentum had been reinforced outside the UK by two European events. The first, was the convention adopted by the Council of Europe which was open for signature, later this month. This adopted the principle that the producer should be liable without proof of fault for death or personal injury – although not damage to property – where the injury was caused by a defect in the producer's product. Although the Council of Europe had only a persuasive influence, he said, it should not be forgotten that its membership was composed of elected legislators from the European democracies and the convention constituted an authoritative direction sign for its member countries.

Mr Fraser also referred to the EEC's preliminary draft directive of 1974 which was revised and put to the council of ministers last year. Any directive still had a long way to go, he said, but its publication in two versions had concentrated the mind because, unlike the Council of Europe, the council of ministers was a legislative chamber. If they passed a directive then it became legally binding in the nine member states.

He pointed out that the Scots and English law commissions had published a consultative document on product liability and were near to completing work on the subject and a royal commission with a remit wider than that of the law commissions was looking at the law relating to compensation for death and personal injury 'and that most certainly encompasses product liability'.

'It is my view,' he said, 'that the assumption of the concept of product liability is right and probably inevitable. In my view the best way to approach the matter is to assume the acceptance of the broad principle and to explore ways in which the principle is to be qualified or limited in its effect.'

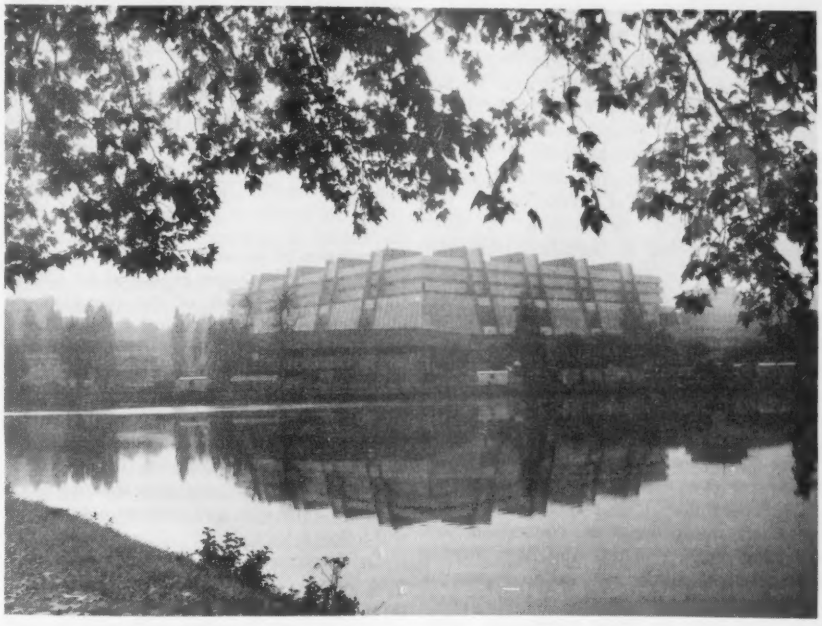
Emphasing that he saw a need for qualifications to the principle, he questioned whether a law based on definition of defect without fault would prove to be more productive of legal wrangles, expense and lawyers' adventurism than the law of negligence; whether the concept would lead to excessive caution and lack of innovation in the scientific field; and whether it was necessary to limit individual heads of damage and an overall total for the products, or to spell out a duty of care by the consumer in the way he consumed the product.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

New Strasbourg home for European parliament

The new Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, inaugurated today (28 January) by Valery Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic. The Palais de l'Europe, which will be the headquarters of the 19-country Council of Europe, will also house the European parliament when it convenes in Strasbourg.



New proposal for the market in alcohol

The commission recently adopted a new proposal concerning the common organisation of the market in alcohol[1]. It will be transmitted to the council of ministers and will permit the establishment of a production, prices and intervention system for ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

This proposal replaces that put forward by the commission in 1972 and takes into account, inter alia, the new situation in the community market in alcohol as a result of the enlargement of the community in 1973 and in particular the reduction in the proportion of agricultural alcohol, which represented 55 per cent of total alcohol production in the community of six and 35 per cent in the community of nine.

The common market organisation proposed by the commission governs agricultural alcohol and its derivatives, but not synthetic alcohol. No absolute limit is placed on the production of ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin but distillers will only be afforded production of a 'guaranteed volume or quota', roughly corresponding to the available outlets, in any one year. However, for molasses alcohol, which can compete on equal terms with synthetic alcohol, no such protection is available. Within the limits of the guaranteed production quotas allocated to each distillery the alcohol may be sold either in the reserved sectors at a fixed selling price or into intervention.

For the purposes of marketing agricultural alcohol where the production is organised in this way, the exclusive use of this alcohol is made obligatory in certain reserved sectors, namely oral consumption, vinegar production and the pharmaceutical industry. Provisionally, for a period of up to five years, the perfumery and cosmetics sector may also be reserved for agricultural alcohol in member states upon request.

To prevent a type of agricultural alcohol obtained from a low-priced raw material from eliminating the other types from the reserved sectors, all alcohol intended for these sectors must be sold at a fixed price. The selling price in the oral consumption sector is to be fixed in relation to the price of cereals alcohol and, in the other reserved sectors, in relation to the price of synthetic alcohol. This means that in principle more expensively-produced agricultural alcohol should receive a compensatory subsidy, whereas alcohol produced from cheaper raw materials should pay a levy.

The scheme provides for the introduction of a system of surveillance and of rules governing the description and presentation of products, in order to protect the consumer and the producers. There will also be a system of import levies and export refunds for trade with third countries.

The scheme is to be financed by a flat rate consumption tax, known as an 'intervention contribution', on all home-produced and imported agricultural alcohol and spirituous beverages consumed in the community. The effect of this tax on consumer prices is estimated by the commission to be negligible (less than 0.04 ua per bottle).

[1] Com(76)274.

Sitpro proposes single customs intervention for EEC goods

With the approach of the end of the transitional period for UK membership of the EEC on 1 July 1977, the UK Simplification of International Trade Procedures (Sitpro) Board has approved further studies of ways in which customs intervention in the movement of goods between member states might be concentrated at one or other end of the chain, rather than at intermediate links as at present.

The continuing intervention of nine individual customs authorities within the community in the old traditional style with supporting export and import responsibilities, says Sitpro, is no longer consistent with the development of a customs union; from now onwards the commission should aim to ensure that customs control of intra-community trade is concentrated at one point, preferably in the country of export, before goods move on their intra-community journey.

The community transit system is already based on the concept of control in the exporting member states. And, says Sitpro, once customs duties on intra-community trade are abolished – at the end of transition next July for most goods – the need for detailed control of importing will be greatly reduced, though the right of customs to carry out selective security checks is not contested.

Sitpro concedes that a small range of goods liable to imposts other than customs duty or to prohibitions or restrictions will always need to be strictly controlled within the generality of imports from other EEC member states, but believes that for the remainder – that is for the bulk of intra-community transactions – the obstacles to single customs intervention are by no means insuperable and rest mainly upon VAT and statistical requirements plus the need for customs to carry out selective checks on such importations or exportations as they consider necessary.

The Sitpro board therefore approved a further study of the concept of a single customs intervention in the export country at its September 1976 meeting. The concept has been discussed with the other simplification boards within the community, known collectively as the Compros, and some of them have given substantial support to the idea. The Compros discussed the proposal with senior officials of the Administration of the Customs Union in the EEC commission, and were heartened by the response. The officials confirmed that the concept was compatible with the administration's own long-term strategy.

Both Sitpro and the commission officials recognise that any such proposal is essentially a long-term aim, and that there will be many practical and administrative problems to be resolved first. The commission has agreed, however, that the problems should be the subject of detailed discussions between the Compros and commission representatives which will begin almost immediately.

The commission has also undertaken to consider whether the concept of a single customs intervention could be included in a state of the customs union paper currently being prepared in Brussels and Sitpro is pressing ahead with practical work and trade consultations aligned on this central principle.

Commission drafts four-year data processing programme

Commission proposals for a community data processing policy were explained by Christopher Layton, head of the commission's electronics directorate, during a visit to London on 13 January. The new proposals[1] are designed, with the help of central funds, to encourage greater collaboration between companies in the community in the standardisation of their products. They complete a series[2] of proposals applying to the data-processing industry; proposals affecting electronic components and telecommunications will follow later.

To implement its suggested four-year programme (1978-81) the commission proposes setting up a community premium scheme for the handling and allocation of funds. Because of the urgency of the problem the commission would like to see the scheme in operation by 1978.

The mainspring of the commission's projected programme is to develop standards, procurement policies and other policies concerned with the environment of data processing, with the aim of maximising both the range of choice and competition open to the user, and the market opportunities open to suppliers of equipment and services. It would also promote the collaborative development of new applications and joint industrial initiatives by the European-based industry in the new market areas of opportunity related to distributed computing.

By the early 1980's, expenditure on informatics, which is growing at about 13 per cent per year, is expected to account for some 4 per cent of the gross national expenditure of the European community. The industrial market for data-processing equipment and services will be worth 10 billion units of account (approximately £4,000 million).

Distributed computing will result in the spread of informatics to a vast range of new users. Already, today, the market for mini-computers is growing much faster (at about 30 per cent a year) than the market for traditional medium-sized computers. Some estimates suggest that by 1980 some 80 per cent of systems will be mini-based. It appears likely, therefore, that by the end of this decade what can loosely be called the 'peri-informatic' sector – minis and microcomputers, terminals and peripherals – will account for over half the value of the market and more than the entire informatics market today.

The creation of community-wide standards, the commission insists, is essential if all users are to have a wide range of choice of equipment and services; if conversion costs are to be kept low; and if manufacturers of all kinds can have access to a large homogeneous market.

A working group on standards has already been set up to develop a standardisation policy for the community. A first priority, the commission believes, should be the development of a common computer language for 'real time' programming instead of the national mix that applies now.

The commission points out that IBM has prospered partly because of huge federal government procurement policies. In the community, public markets account for 20-30 per cent of purchases. The commission would like to see this public share of the market for European manufacturers enlarged with agreement, among purchasers, to apply community standards. The commission has already proposed that public tendering for data processing equipment should be open to competitive tender as from 1980. If approved by the council this would offer considerable incentive to agreement on common standards.

Collaboration between public research centres in member states could, the commission says, provide a useful infrastructure for the community programme.

The commission proposes that community funds should provide between 20 and 50 per cent of the cost of collaborative projects put forward by users of at least three member states, or industrial companies from at least two, designed to serve needs of a transnational character or to help the industry to penetrate key new markets.

Funds would also be available to the software industry to encourage and assist it to develop Europe-wide structures and marketing capabilities. Such financial support would be used for portable software and tools available to consortia of European-based companies, from at least two community countries, which come forward with appropriate proposals.

The hardware or systems industry faces particular financial difficulties in the renting or leasing of computers and the funding of research and development. To meet the first problem the commission proposes following a Japanese example and creating a community leasing fund, managed by the European Investment Bank and endowed with an initial capital of 100 mua (approximately £40 million), but provision has not been made for this in the first four-year programme.

On the development of new products, the commission proposes to make community financial support available in the peri-informatic sector (mini-computers, terminals, etc), for projects put forward by associations of companies based in at least two community countries.

Decisions under the community premium scheme, will be taken by the commission assisted by a committee for the management and co-ordination of the data-processing programmes, on which member states will be represented and which will have responsibility for all data-processing actions adopted by the council. The total cost of this programme over four years would be 103 mua (approximately £43 million).

[1] COM(76) 524 final, vol. I, 29 October 1976
[2] COM (75) 35 final, 5 March 1975.

EEC – your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other government departments.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

European standards

Q. I understand that CEN and Cenelec are standards organisations. Could you give me the details?

A. CEN and Cenelec are standards organisations which work to remove obstacles to trade caused by differing technical requirements.

CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) is the European committee for standardisation whose members are the national bodies of the EEC and Efta countries and Spain. CEN standards are adopted by majority voting and once adopted they are published as the national standards of the countries which have approved them.

Cenelec (Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique) is the European committee for electrotechnical standardisation whose members are drawn from the national electrotechnical committees of the member states of Efta and the EEC. Cenelec standards are also adopted by majority voting: member states are then obliged to incorporate these in their national standards. Broadly speaking, Cenelec aims to base its harmonisation work on the publications of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), whilst CEN is linked in the same way with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). For further information contact the UK representative of the appropriate committee through the British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS, tel. 01-629 9000.

Insurance: harmonisation of legislation

Q. What is the EEC doing about harmonisation of insurance legislation and administrative practices?

A. EEC directive 64/225 abolishing restrictions on freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of reinsurance and retrocession was in force before the UK joined the community and was adopted by this country on its accession. Also in force at that time was EEC directive 72/166 on the approximation of laws of member states relating to compulsory motor insurance against civil liability and the obligation to take out such insurance. Certain amendments were negotiated by the UK and this directive has been in force here since January 1974.

EEC directive 73/239 relating to freedom of establishment in non-life insurance was adopted in July 1973 and came into force on 31 January 1976. It co-ordinates rules for the authorisation and supervision of insurance undertakings. The definition of the unit of account as used in this directive was subsequently changed, by EEC directive 76/580, from a gold-related basis to that of the European unit of account based on a 'basket' of community currencies.

Draft directives at present under consideration would:

1 co-ordinate regulations in respect of freedom of establishment for life assurance (which would parallel EEC directive 73/239);
2 co-ordinate regulations relating to co-insurance operations;
3 further co-ordinate measures to facilitate freedom of establishment in non-life insurance and take the first step in facilitating freedom of services in non-life insurance;
4 introduce transitional measures to assist insurance intermediaries (agents and brokers) in making use of their rights to freedom of establishment and services – this directive would introduce provisions for the mutual recognition of qualifications;
5 co-ordinate regulations relating to the winding-up of insurance businesses.

The commission has under consideration the preparation of additional draft directives which could amend or extend provisions relating to credit insurance, legal expenses insurance, health insurance and suretyship insurance.

Use of TIR

Q. Can I use the TIR system for intra-community trade?

A. On 1 January 1976 the option to use TIR for intra-community movements was withdrawn but it has since been agreed that to facilitiate trade interests and documentation TIR may be used for movements which start in an EEC member state and are for split delivery both in a third country, ie a country other than an EEC member state, Austria or Switzerland, and in an EEC member state, Austria and/or Switzerland. Community transit movement certificates may be authenticated for that part of the goods in such combined movements which are for delivery in the EEC, Austria, and/or Switzerland. TIR may also continue to be used for movements starting or finishing in a third country.

For movements which are for split delivery in either or both an EEC member state, Austria or Switzerland TIR may be used but community transit movement certificates will not be authenticated. For example:

Route	TIR procedure
1 UK-France-Spain	TIR may be used with movement certificates for goods delivered in France
2 UK-Austria*-Yugoslavia	TIR may be used with movement certificates for goods delivered in Austria
3 UK-France-Austria*	TIR may be used but movement certificates will not be authenticated

* Or Switzerland.

The community transit system is of course available for movements within the community and between the community and Austria and Switzerland.

Further information on the system is available from HM Customs and Excise, Kent House, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PS, tel. 01-928 0533 ext. 460.

Customs-approved vehicles and containers and certain heavy or bulky goods, travelling under the TIR and sealed at the customs office of departure, are normally free from further examination until the customs office of the final destination is reached. (photo : Leyland Truck and Bus)

Towards a better quality of life

On 9 December a council of environment ministers met in Brussels and adopted, among other things, the community's second action programme on the environment which sets out the general approach to environmental action during the four years until 1981. This new programme is the successor to the first action programme on the environment which was adopted in 1973. In this article Erica Weatherall of the Department of the Environment's Central Unit on Environmental Pollution describes both programmes and the UK's attitude to them.

In the years since the adoption of the community's first environment action programme much of value to protect and improve the environment has been achieved. Directives have now been adopted which set quality objectives for water for bathing and for abstraction for drinking, along with a directive regulating dangerous substances in the aquatic environment – since water, as a milieu, was considered an important starting point for the setting of environmental quality objectives. Other proposals on water quality for freshwater fish and shellfish are under discussion; work on waste management resulted in directives on waste in general and waste oils in particular; and proposals on the management of toxic wastes are at the moment under consideration.

There has also been a number of other directives and decisions under, for the most part, article 100 of the treaty of Rome in the context of the prevention of barriers to trade: these include directives on the marketing and use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), on lead in petrol and on sulphur in gas oils, not to mention a wide range concerned with vehicles of various kinds, their emissions and noise levels.

The original environmental action programme was conceived as recently as 1972 when ministers agreed that it was appropriate for the community to formulate and implement a policy on the environment since, even though the treaty of Rome made no specific mention of the subject, it was as much concerned with the quality of people's lives and surroundings as with their economic well-being.

Community environment policy has, then, as its basic objective, the improvement of the setting and quality of life, and the surroundings and living conditions of people, and the first programme provided for much wide-ranging work in pursuit of this aim.

Briefly, the first programme fell into two main parts. The first dealt with the control of pollution, and included, inter alia, studies on the degree of risk to human health and the environment posed by different substances, the development of environmental quality objectives, and the working out of standards for specific products and for environmental quality.

The second main part dealt with the improvement of the environment and contained a miscellany of measures and studies. Its chief focus was on the natural environment, although it also touched on the problems of urbanisation, for instance.

Implementation of the first programme has made apparent, however, certain difficulties. On a practical level it was far too ambitious an enterprise to be completed within the timetable planned for it and the target dates set were not for the most part met. This is why the second programme is devoted in the main to the continuation and completion of the original work. The pace of work has probably also not been helped by the need to deal with matters of immediate concern which were unrelated to the priorities originally laid down and which violated the logic of the programme: this logic was intended that quality objectives should be set on the basis of the dose/effect relationships which should have first been established.

A difference of approach

On a more philosophical level, experience has shown that there are basic differences of approach to environmental issues between the UK, the commission and some of our continental partners. The most fundamental divergence of view stems from the contrast between UK philosophy on pollution control – which articulates, to a degree uncommon in the environmental philosophies of our partners, the argument that the environment is a resource with an absorptive and dispersive capacity to be used but not abused – and the thinking of the commission and some member states.

Although the maxim of the 'receiving' environment is explicitly acknowledged in one of the principles of the programme, the commission and some member states, with their historical preference for administrative and legalistic controls, have often, in the past, favoured the imposition of uniform emission limits for all emissions of a given kind anywhere in the community.

Not unnaturally, some of the proposals which resulted from the first environment programme were framed with this preference in mind. However, on occasions, no allowance has been made for the traditionally pragmatic and flexible approach which the UK has developed over the past century whereby limits for individual emissions are determined in the light of local needs of the environment (the quality objective approach) and this has naturally created friction.

The discussions on the directive on dangerous substances in the aquatic environment during 1975 provided what is now a somewhat celebrated example of the difficulties inherent in trying to reconcile traditionally different approaches to the same problems when framing measures. This directive was adopted early in 1976, but only after a good deal of discussion at ministerial level during which Denis Howell was eventually able to win recognition that, for the most objectionable polluting substances, environmental quality objective systems could be operated in parallel with the use of uniform emission standards in other countries. The community's decision on that 'parallelism' for the most objectionable substances also recognised environmental quality objectives as the only system for less objectionable substances.

Two other proposals on waste from the titanium dioxide and wood pulp industries have recently given rise to the same sorts of difficulties, but recent and continuing discussions on wastes from these industries suggest that a universally acceptable modus operandi may in due course be worked out.

The second programme

The past year has seen first thoughts being given to the second programme, the submission to the council of a draft version, and three rounds of intensive negotiations in the council environment working group which, finally, after consideration in the committee of permanent representatives, led to the adoption of a second programme of action on the environment at the December council.

During the course of the negotiations the UK thought it important to prevent the second programme from inheriting the weakness of the original. And so we argued for a clear order of priorities of work to be identified or, if the difficulties of reconciling the various actual priorities of different member states proved insurmountable, for criteria to guide the working out of relative priorities. Although we did not succeed in getting incorporated into the body of the programme a statement on priorities, the importance of orderly and efficient implementation of work was underestimated by none.

Britain also argued the importance of securing a proper economic basis for proposals, of making sure, especially in these days of economic stringency, that the best value in environmental terms would be gained for the resources which were likely to be used in achieving particular ends.

In the same context the UK argued the need for assessment of the effectiveness of different types of instrument which might be employed to achieve environmental goals. We considered this especially important since rational discussion of the validity of different methods of pollution control might help avoid, in future, the sort of conflict which has so far taken place when proposals, such as on dangerous substances in the aquatic environment, have already been formulated. We are now satisfied that we have a chapter on the economic aspects of proposals which provides for thorough economic consideration as an integral part of their formulation.

Monitoring was another key issue. Many directives which resulted from the first pro-

gramme provided for monitoring procedures to assess their effectiveness when implemented. Rather than continue providing for monitoring in this ad hoc and rather haphazard fashion, it seemed to us that a proper, co-ordinated monitoring strategy should be developed and articulated in the new programme. Effective overall supervision could then be given to the implementation of measures, and gaps where further action might be required could probably be identified far more readily within the context of a comprehensive approach. We were able to achieve much of what we wished on this score.

At the end of the day we have got a programme of action setting out the general approach for the next four years which is well-balanced and sound. The UK has always supported the aims and objectives of community environmental policy without refraining from being constructively critical of the shortcomings of its programmes, and, given the lessons learned from implementing the first, there is no reason why the second should not achieve its goals.

The second environment programme, then, continues and expands the work of the first, opening up several new areas for action. The main new fields for action are noise abatement, environmental impact assessment, ecological mapping – which uses cartographic techniques to incorporate ecological and environmental data into a mapping system – the prevention of waste generation, water resource management, the protection of flora and fauna and the conservation of ancient monuments and sites of special interest, and the introduction of an environmental aspect to relations with developing countries.

Overall the new programme places more stress on the need for preventive, rather than curative, action in environmental care as well as on the need for rational management of space, the environment and its natural resources.

The final text of the second environment programme should be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

EEC information

New guide published

The EEC Information Unit has published a new edition of *EEC – Your Questions Answered.* It contains much new material and will help all those needing to know how EEC policies and legislation can affect day-to-day business activities and forward planning.

Free copies are available from:
EEC Information Unit
Department of Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
tel. 01-215 5377 or 3579

Overseas trade news

Britain's export performance not yet good enough – Dell

Last year British exports of goods and services, at more than £37 billion, represented something like 34 per cent of this country's gross national product. In a speech to the Institute of Export on 24 January, Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said that this was comparable with Germany's performance, and substantially better than that of the United States, Japan, France or Italy.

But, he said, Britain still had a current account balance of payments deficit at the end of last year of £1.5 billion. That figure was quite a significant improvement on the 1975 deficit and a very large improvement on the 1974 deficit. The forecasters said the UK would be in a surplus in 1978, so the trend seemed right.

However Britain's performance was not good enough, Mr Dell said. This was because this country was not moving towards surplus fast enough, and what had been achieved was at the expense of a depressed home market and a very high level of unemployment; also Britain's share of world exports of manufactured goods was far less satisfactory than the overall performance which included services as well as goods.

He emphasised the crucial role of the surplus on invisibles in the progress made so far. Last year the surplus on invisible items increased by over £500 million to an estimated £2,100 million.

Mr Dell urged manufacturers to concentrate on the community market where, he said, the UK had managed to hold its share of total imports steady since joining the community, and possibly even improved it.

The potential for exports in the Opec countries was now well recognised, but Britain had not been doing as well as it should within the EEC. Even a 1 per cent increase in the share of the market would raise the UK's exports by over £1,000 million.

The UK was now in very large deficit with the community, due largely to a shift of imports of food through the community, so Britain was entitled to press particularly hard for a larger share of its manufactured imports.

Mr Dell said, 'I think we are also entitled to make clear to them that where obstacles continue to exist to the development of our highly-competitive invisible exports to the community, obstacles resulting from practices which inhibit free competition in services, they should specially be removed.'

'Britain's exporters were fighting a war which was the key to the country's influence, power and prosperity,' he said, 'international trade was not a love match, it was a war.

'It is a war,' he said, 'which is intended to be fought according to rules, such as those inscribed in the Gatt. But the effects of losing out in international trade like the effects of losing in war, are the decline of influence, the decline of power, as well as the relative decline of prosperity.

'In the war which is international trade, in the battle for markets and prosperity, in the battle for power and influence, I want to be on the winning side, because I think this country does have a particular experience and position which can be used to advance humane causes generally.'

He regarded the UK's trading performance as the key to this country's status in the world, and he had little patience with those who think there is something trivial – or even undignified – in devoting one's life to the promotion of this country's industry and its exports.

'Our exporters,' he said, 'by their successes or failure, create or destroy the influence which ministers or public servants can channel into international decision-making, international decision-making of a kind that affects the future of this country as well as the future of humanity as a whole.'

BOTB and NEDC co-operate on export factors

The British Overseas Trade Board and the National Economic Development Council are looking together at three industrial sectors and trying to estimate the potential market share for each of them in western Europe. The sectors are clothing, machine tools and scientific instruments and systems.

Outlining the joint project to exporters at the Institute of Export luncheon on 24 January, Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of BOTB, said that the answers obtained at first may not be right but that the professional knowledge acquired in trying to reach them would make a vital

contribution to the further development of industrial strategy.

Sir Frederick said he was glad to see that in the second stage of the industrial strategy many of the sector working parties were setting themselves targets for overseas market penetration.

'We, with our colleagues in the Department of Trade welcome this initiative and will work closely with Neddy putting at their disposal the expertise of our area groups... and all the official expertise and industrial expertise on trade promotion and development,' he said.

UK-Romanian co-operation agreement expected today

A long-term programme of economic, industrial and technological co-operation is expected to be signed today (28 January) at the close of the fourth annual meeting of the UK-Romanian joint meeting which began on 24 January.

The Romanian delegation has been led by Constantin Stancieu, Deputy Minister, of Foreign Trade and International Economic Co-operation, and the UK team by John Steele, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Trade.

During his stay in the UK Mr Stancieu called on ministers at the Departments of Trade and Industry and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and made a number of industrial visits.

Edmund Dell with Constantin Stancieu. Below, the commission in session.

Anglo-Finnish commission aids trade

The Anglo-Finnish joint technological commission works to promote trade in the scientific and technical areas of industry.

Since 1970 it has successfully covered a variety of products including steel-making plant, hovercraft, medical electronics. Products or know-how can be included in this year's programme of activities by writing or telephoning Jim Hogan, Anglo-Finnish Joint Technological Commission, Department of Trade, CRE3/1, Room 361, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, tel. 01-215 5303.

Import and export controls for wildlife conservation

A notice published in *Trade and Industry* on 19 December 1975 announced the implementation by the UK, as from 1 January 1976, of the requirements of the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Under the convention import and export licences are required for many rare animals and plants and certain of their parts and derivatives.

Pending the enactment of new comprehensive legislation the Department of the Environment has since been operating the necessary controls under the Import of Goods (Control) Order, 1954, and the Export of Goods (Control) Order, 1970. These controls are now consolidated under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976 which comes into force on 3 February. Importers and exporters will also wish to be aware that the act provides for changes to be made by order to the lists of animals and plants. The first of these orders will become effective on 4 February and will extend controls to certain other species and to some additional parts and derivatives.

In order to facilitate the import and export of certain classes of goods the Department of the Environment will also issue a number of open general licences, which will take effect from 3 February 1977. These licences will cover goods licensed under the existing controls; certain personal effects; trade samples of no saleable value; re-imported goods previously exported legally; eggs of poultry; herbarium specimens and (export only) orchid hybrids. An open individual licence is also to be issued authorising certain approved scientific institutions to exchange certain museum specimens without restriction.

The system of control, and the species of animals, plants and their parts and derivatives covered by it, was described in a notice to importers and exporters published by the Department of the Environment on 17 January 1977. Copies of the notice, licence application forms and the open general licences are available on request from the Wildlife Conservation Licensing Section, Department of the Environment, 17-19 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1LN, tel. 01-834 8181 ext. 258/9.

Successful trade mission to Korea

A debriefing meeting for last October's 15-man mission to Korea, jointly sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has just been held in London.

Delegates expressed great enthusiasm about business transacted and especially about the market potential. They heard, as a result of comments made by mission members, that Koreans are prepared to pay for quality and to pay the highest price for it; that there is great potential for printing machinery in Korea; that one of the most useful points about this mission was the high level of government trade contacts; and that there is a great future in Korea for railway equipment. John Mann of the Department of Trade who accompanied the mission said, 'Korea is one of the fastest moving economies in the Far East, the country is rapidly becoming industrialised and there are excellent opportunities for a wide range of British goods and equipment.'

In October 1978, there will be another BOTB-sponsored mission to Korea.

Exporting to Japan seminar

A seminar on exporting to Japan has been arranged by Kirklees Chamber of Commerce on 22 February. Delegates from all over the north of England have been invited to attend.

The seminar aims to outline the areas in which there is scope for increased penetration of the Japanese market by British exporters, exploring the opportunities and examining the pitfalls. It will be addressed by a number of prominent speakers on trade with Japan.

Further information can be obtained from Ann Lightman, Kirklees Chamber of Commerce, Commerce House, New North Road, Huddersfield HD1 5PJ, tel. Huddersfield (0484) 26591.

Customs study group proposes quicker export documentation

A Customs and Excise study group has concluded that the present scheme of documentation and statistics for export entry, based on customs assigned numbers (CAN), is working near to the limit of its effectiveness, and has proposed changes to the existing system intended to be beneficial to the trade and to customs.

Outline details of its proposals for quicker export documentation (QED) have been given in a consultative paper to the Joint Customs Consultative Committee, which includes representatives from the Institute of Freight Forwarders, the General Council of British Shipping, the British Shippers Council, the Road Haulage Association and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

The study group which has been looking into a long-term strategy for exports with particular reference to documentation and statistics examined existing UK trade procedures and EEC practices.

Listing the continuing problems in the present scheme, the group reports failures to lodge export entries with customs; lodgement of more than one entry for exported goods; provision in over one-third of export documents of incomplete or innaccurate data and the late lodgement of entries by traders. With the vital importance of export statistics to the country, the CAN scheme is not basically a sound method of ensuring that all information about exports is collected and that the information itself is accurate. Furthermore, the UK's present system is not in line with that of other EEC countries, all of whom use some form of pre-entry.

The QED package is based to a large extent on a simple pre-entry system for exporters/agents who would lodge a single export document for the typical export consignment, although there would be important variations which would have advantages for the trade. The shipping information would be entered by Customs and Excise.

A local advisory service would provide guidance in matters like tariff trade classification to enable documents to be completed more accurately. Copies of commercial invoices would be required for higher-value exports, again helping to ensure accuracy at source. When scrutiny of documents was necessary Customs and Excise would do so at designated offices (possibly long rooms, shipping stations, inland clearance depots and some local offices for large exporters) before passing them and returning them to the exporter/agent. The exporter/agent would then present the scrutinised form to the loader of the goods at the place of export. There would be no hindrance to exports as Customs and Excise would not be concerned with completeness and accuracy of documents which would have previously been authenticated at designated offices.

Special arrangements are being considered in detail for variation from the standard, notably for ro-ro traffic, for carriers who operate ADP systems – most airlines, for example – and for the acceptance of export information on magnetic tape from approved traders.

The consultative paper has been produced well ahead of the earliest implementation date for the QED package, 1 January 1979, as such a scheme would involve a considerable change from present practice, and it will be essential to have detailed consultation with the trade interests who would have to plan for the changes.

Customs are undertaking a feasibility study and have asked for trade comments on the proposals – which at this stage are flexible – if possible before 31 March 1977. Customs stress that no decision about the future of export documentation will be taken before the feasibility study is complete.

Further details on the QED scheme or particular aspects, such as that for ro-ro traffic or carriers who operate ADP systems, may be obtained from: General Customs Division E Branch 5, HM Customs and Excise, Kent House, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PS.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemptions from import duty on the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing UK demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the UK demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the legislation authorising this and will remain in operation until 30 June 1977.

Interested parties who wish to make presentations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a trade association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 4 February.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Reference
29.44	Chlortetracycline	As in previous column	G/T 15955
	Demethylchlortetracycline hydrochloride	As in previous column	G/T 15956
	Tetracycline	As in previous column	G/T 16042
	Tetracycline hydrochloride	As in previous column	G/T 16043
	Demethylchlortetracycline	As in previous column	G/T 16044
	Chlortetracycline hydrochloride	As in previous column	G/T 16051

EXPORT YEAR

Over 1600 companies are already taking part in Export Year. But there is still plenty of time to join them. Write to or phone the Export Year Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET. Tel. 01-215 5180/3393/5773.

ECGD backs biggest ever loan

A £202 million loan which Lloyds Bank International Ltd acting on behalf of Lloyds Bank Ltd has made available to Dubai Aluminium Company Ltd (DUBAL) is being backed by ECGD. This is the biggest ever loan to be guaranteed by ECGD.

The loan will help finance the £341 million contract awarded to British Smelter Constructions Ltd for the design and construction of an aluminium smelter complex at Jebel Ali. The complex will include a 25 million gallons per day desalination plant and a 400MW power generation plant.

UK aid yields £9.9m for British industry

British industry received about £9.9 million in December from orders following grants and loans made to developing countries by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

The following were among the largest contracts accepted for financing in December, including earlier contracts now accepted for reimbursement from aid funds:

Fire protection equipment from Afghanistan (£27,414) from Mather and Platt Ltd, Manchester; a pilot launch for Pakistan (£225,540) from McTay Marine Ltd, Bromborough, Merseyside; motor graders for the Sudan (£138,153) from Aveling Barford, Grantham, Lincs; tractors for Ethiopia (£28,542) from Massey-Ferguson (UK) Ltd, Coventry; ammonium sulphate fertiliser for Bangladesh (£183,750) from Scottish Agricultural Industries, Edinburgh; Bedford trucks for Bangladesh (£237,612) from Vauxhall Motors Ltd, Luton; cargo sheds for Mauritius (£531,589) from Sanders and Forster Ltd, London; a vacuum drying vessel for India (£270,209) from General Engineering Co (Radcliffe), Manchester; gas chromatographs for India (£65,318) from Perkin-Elmer Ltd, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Administration of these grants and loans was carried out by the Crown Agents who also placed the orders for the items for Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Sudan and Ethiopia.

Spanish steel: provisional anti-dumping duty extended

The provisional charge to anti-dumping duty of 10 per cent imposed on Spanish stainless steel bars and billets for a period of three months from 25 October will be extended for a further three months from 25 January. The total period of six months is the maximum allowed for a provisional charge under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 (Section 8(3)).

The extension is necessary to enable the Department of Trade to complete its investigation into the anti-dumping application made by the British Independent Steel Producers Association concerning Spanish stainless steel bars and billets.

Spanish exporters involved have provided a considerable amount of information to the Department of Trade. This has to be analysed with great care to enable the department to reach an accurate and fair assessment of the actual margins of dumping. This inevitably takes time.

New form eases exporters documentation problems

A new development in documentation which offers a standard alternative to the full bill of lading for those who do not need all the facilities offered by this document has been developed by the General Council of British Shipping (GCBS) in co-operation with the Simplification of International Trade Procedures (Sitpro) Board. The standard liner waybill is a simple form of consignment note and can be used with any shipping line operating the GCBS waybill scheme instead of the bill of lading.

Like an air waybill, the standard liner waybill is non-negotiable and the consignee does not need to possess the document in order to obtain the goods. There is, says Sitpro, no problem of stale or late documents; the waybill does not have to be sent to the consignee at all. A standard clause on the face of the form refers to the carrier's conditions of carriage, so there is no mass of small print on the back. Full conditions are available from the carrier separately when needed for reference.

The standard liner waybill will be accepted by any carrier operating the scheme. The shipper or his agent fills in the form, adds the carrier's name, and lodges it in the same way as bills of lading. Only one stock of blank forms is needed, instead of separate stocks for each carrier.

The standard liner waybill is a 'received for shipment' document, but can be endorsed 'shipped on board' if required. If the goods are short-shipped, the carrier will issue a qualification report on request.

The standard liner waybill is acceptable to Customs and Excise as evidence of export for VAT purposes. It is also acceptable to the Export Credits Guarantee Department except in a few special circumstances. It meets the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce requirements for shipment of these commodities. It can additionally be used when documents are transmitted to a bank for collection or under a suitably worded letter of credit, except when the bank advances finance against the document.

Full details on how to use standard liner waybills are available from Sitpro, 11 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AU.

New president for British Food Export Council

Michael Vernon, chairman and chief executive of Spillers Ltd, has been elected president of the British Food Export Council.

The British Food Export Council was set up to help companies in the food industry to achieve exports in world markets.

New Chinese commercial counsellor

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade, met the new commercial counsellor from the Peoples Republic of China Lui Chin-Sheng (right) on 24 January. With them is the retiring counsellor Peng Jun-Min (left).

Len Murray supports export drive

Speaking at a BOTB export dynamics conference in Dunstable on 20 January, Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said that Britain needed every scrap of selling achievement that it could get in the markets of the world. Holding down inflation, holding up Britain's standard of living, driving back unemployment, depended on what this country sold abroad. So exports were a trade union aim as well as a managerial aim, he said.

'We must push up the volume of our exports as well as getting a good price for them, if we are to get the best value for our firms and our country out of our exports. That will create more jobs now in our exporting industries.'

Referring to industrial disputes in Britain, Mr Murray commented that it might be a good idea to put the facts about Britain's strikes in every export salesman's kit. In most industrialised countries he would then be able to say that the UK did not have as many strikes as that country did, that the UK's strikes did not last as long, and that they caused fewer days lost to production.

He said that responsibility came from involvement, and involvement meant more than getting agreement to a spell of overtime to meet a vital delivery date. Involvement had to be continuous and he believed working people were ready for it.

BOTB and BTA organise seminar at Wembley

Sir Alexander Glen, chairman British Tourist Authority (BTA), Viscount Garnock vice-chairman British Overseas Trade Board's North America advisory group and BTA member, Jim Wilks, chief executive BOTB, and Len Lickorish, director general BTA, will be the main speakers at a seminar – 'Britain as a World Conference and Exhibition Centre' – on 8 February. The seminar will be held at the Wembley Conference Centre, which will be officially opened by the Duke of Kent on 31 January, and has been organised jointly by BOTB and BTA.

The seminar will consider ways in which BOTB and BTA can promote British conference and exhibition facilities overseas.

Project financing in Iran

In the item 'Talks on project financing in Iran' (the 21 January issue of *Trade and Industry*, page 177) the third sentence of the third paragraph should have read 'Mr Dell made it clear that the UK government had yet to consider the extension of oil counter-purchase to the non-defence sector . . .'

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ENCIRCLE TI 366 ON PAGE 279 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Overseas trade country data

Australia

Temporary protection: carbon papers and films. The Department of Industry and Commerce has received a request for temporary protection against imports of carbon papers and films falling within the following tariff items:

Tariff no	Description
	Carbon paper:
48.07.200	rolls or sheets
48.13.000	cut to size
	Carbon film (polyester base)
39.01.900	bulk forms
39.07.190	cut to size
	Carbon film (polypropylene base)
39.02.62	bulk forms (planar)
39.07.120	cut to size

Interested parties either in support of, or in opposition to, the request may submit their views to the department for consideration.

Requests for temporary protection are initially received and considered by this department. At a subsequent stage they may be referred to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of the reference.

Any temporary protection which may be accorded the goods by the government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority would be in the nature of holding action pending government consideration of the question of long term protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that, it has been made clear that, should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the reference will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers therefore have been urged to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action by taken by the government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at the public hearing, either by the nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London, SW1, tel. 01-930 2524 who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise The Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia, by 8 February 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 174/77.

Coated paper and paperboard for use in the manufacture of containers (by-law): location and time of the public hearing. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 26 November 1976 reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether polyethylene coated paper and paperboard, of a kind falling within sub-item 48.07.9 in schedule 1 to the customs tariff, for use in the manufacture of containers for the packaging of goods, such as milk, milk products and fruit juices, should be prescribed by a by-law or specified in a determination for the purposes of sub-item 48.07.1 in schedule 1 to the customs tariff, and if so found, from what date and subject to what other conditions, if any, should sub-item 48.07.1 apply to these goods.

The commission will hold a public hearing into this reference at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Barton, ACT 2600, Australia, commencing at 10 am on Monday 14 February 1977. UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, without delay.

Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (01-930 2524), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319 Ref: CRE 1902/76.

Ban on pencils with toxic paint. The Australian government has banned the import of pencils coated with paint containing dangerous levels of toxic materials, on the ground that such pencils are potentially dangerous to people, particularly children, who might chew them.

The ban follows recent disclosures that the paint on some imported pencils contained amounts of lead well above those that the National Health and Medical Research Council considered tolerable.

The new measures mean that coating on pencils may not contain more than 0.25 per cent of lead or its compounds.

The prohibition will also apply to coatings which contain:

arsenic exceeding 0.1 per cent
antinomy exceeding 0.1 per cent
cadmium exceeding 0.1 per cent
selenium exceeding 0.1 per cent
mercury exceeding 0.01 per cent
chromium exceeding 0.1 per cent
soluble compounds of barium exceeding 0.05 per cent, by volume of the non-volatile content of the paint or other substance

The prohibition is to be applied through the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Belgium

Excise duties on cigarettes. *Moniteur Belge* 250 of 28 December 1976 published a decree dated 20 December 1976 amending the excise duties on cigarettes. The special duty levied in addition to the *ad valorem* and specific excise duties on cigarettes manufactured in or imported into Belgium has been changed to 3.93 per cent of the retail price plus 0.015 franc per cigarette. The cumulative total of the *ad valorem*, specific and special excise duties not being less than 0.70 franc per cigarette. The decree entered into force on 1 January 1977. Copies of the decree in French are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Export (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Cayman Islands

Spirits and cigarettes: new import duty rates. By law 18 of 1976, the Cayman Islands authorities have amended the rates of duty on spirits and cigarettes as follows:

Item no	Description of goods	Rate of duty
9.02	Ale, beer and other malt liquors, cider and perry	$2.75 per gallon
9.03	Spirits, including ethyl alcohol, brandy, gin, rum, whisky, liqueurs and other potable spirits	$18.00 per gallon
9.04	Wine and cordials, including tonic wines	$4.00 per gallon
10.02	Cigarettes	$7.00 per 1,000

Specific duty rates are quoted in Caymen Island dollars (CI $) and the Imperial system of weights and measures is used.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Chile

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank has now established the daily rate of exchange for the period 5 January to 4 February 1977. Copies of the bank's decision, as published in the *Official Gazette* of 5 January are available from CRE tel. 01-215 5289.

Finland

Credit restrictions. The Bank of Finland has recently announced further measures aimed at tightening the credit supply including a steady lowering of commercial bank credit ceilings. The Bank of Finland has set monthly payment targets to the commercial banks to achieve a Fmks1 billion reduction in their debt to the Central Bank. The measures may well affect the ability of some Finnish importers to finance imports of goods, including those from British suppliers.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5305.

Gibraltar

Imports and exports (control) regulations. Legal notice 143/76 published in the *Gibraltar Gazette* 1663 of 9 December 1976 gives details of the Imports and Exports (Control) Regulations 1976 which came into force on 1 January 1977.

The existing Imports and Exports (Control) Regulations are revoked.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/462/472/473.

Italy

Forbidden importation of harmful plant and seed organisms. The Italian *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, 4 December 1976, published ministerial decree 18 October 1976 listing harmful plant and seed organisms which cannot be imported into Italy. Where the importation of harmful organisms is necessary for scientific research special permission can be requested from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. This decree came into force 1 January 1977.

Copies of the decree, in Italian, are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Jamaica

Metrication of customs entries. The Jamaican authorities have announced to importers that, as from 1 January 1977, the statistical unit for classification shown in column 7 of the customs tariff will be metricated. All customs entries and shipping bills must now show quantities according to the metric system.

The unit is not affected by the above regulations.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Madagascar

Commercial inquiries. *Trade and Industry* of 30 January and 9 April 1976 referred to the closure of the British embassy, Tananarive, in Madagascar.

While a vice-consul is still resident in Tananarive, who will be able to assist British businessmen visiting the market, all other commercial responsibility for Madagascar lies with the Commercial Section, British High Commission, 8th Floor, Permanent House, corner Azikiwe Street/Independence Avenue, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania (postal address: British High Commission, PO Box 9112, Dar Es Salaam).

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5334.

Morocco

Taxes on imports. It was announced on 28 December 1976 in the Moroccan *Bulletin Officiel* 3347 bis that the rate of the special tax has been increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent *ad valorem* from 1 January 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

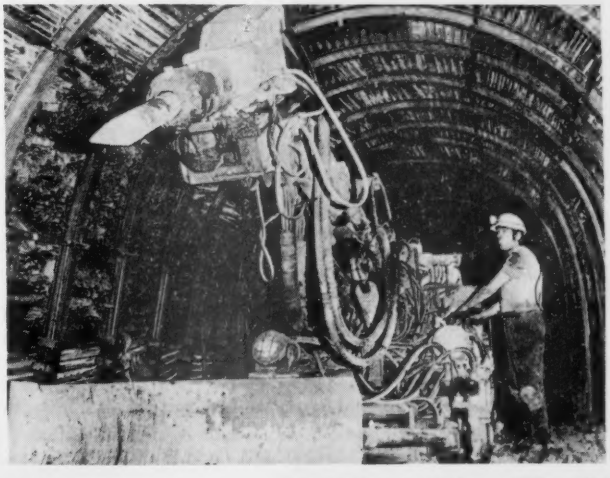
Mozambique

Entry visas. A communique from the Migration Department (Ministry of Interior) published on 15 January 1977 stated that entry into Mozambique will be restricted during the period 15 January to 15 February 1977, because the Third Congress of Frelimo (Frente de Libertacao de Mocambique) is being held from 3 to 7 February.

Visas for visits for tourism, families and private commerce will not

British 'Ripper' carves its way to success

This powerful British machine used in mining and tunnelling – the Impact Ripper – has carved its way to success in two modern West German mines by increasing productivity, improving safety and reducing costs. The manufacturers, Gullick Dobson Ltd, claim the Ripper has twice the impact rate of conventional equipment, which enables it to clear harder stone headings. It can deliver 10 blows of 415kgfm force in a second and its boom can be telescoped by up to 915mm. The impact chisel can also be set to any desired height or angle.



be issued. Exceptions to this rule are official visits which will be dealt with by the ministry or government agency concerned through the Migration Department. Other exceptional cases will be considered by the Migration Department on the presentation of the request by interested parties. Mozambicans and resident foreigners intending to travel have been requested to comply with this instruction and ensure before leaving that they will be allowed to stay in the country of their destination for this period.

Mozambicans and foreign residents outside the territorial boundary will be permitted to return during this period but should wherever possible postpone their return until after 15 February. Mozambicans resident outside territorial limits whose nationality has not been clarified will however be refused entry.

Foreigners not resident, in possession of entry visas already authorised, will be permitted to enter. Diplomats are excluded from these restrictions.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5794.

Netherlands

Gravies, meat extract, flavourings, broths, soups. Three decrees dated 16 November and published on 28 December 1976, amend legislation concerning the above-mentioned products.

Copies of these decrees (in Dutch) are available. English translations should be available in about six weeks' time from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Pakistan

Drugs. The Pakistan federal government, under the powers conferred by the Drugs Act 1976, has published the following:

1 Drugs (Import and Export) Rules 1976
2 National Formulary – additional items

Loan copies of the Drugs (Import and Export) Rules 1976 and the National Formulary (including the amendment) are available to British exporters.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Panama

Taxes. Head of government, Brigadier-General Torrijos, has announced amendments to the Panamanian tax structure. The most important development is the introduction of a new consumer tax, to be levied on a wide range of goods. The basic rate is to be 5 per cent and the tax is to come into force on 1 March 1977. The details of the tax are still being worked out and at present no further details are available. Details will be published as they become available.

At the same time the head of government announced increases in the tax on beer and cigarettes. Details are as follows:

1 Beer per case of 24 bottles (small) with a total capacity of 6.84 litres US $1.50
per case of 24 bottles (large) with a total capacity of 13.68 litres US $3.00
2 Cigarettes per pack of 20 US $0.10

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

St Pierre and Miquelon

Documentation. A law published in the French *Official Journal* of 19 July 1976 conferred upon the archipelago of St Pierre, Miquelon and Langlade the status of Overseas Department.

These islands are now treated as an integral part of France and the transit certificate T3(L) should be used by UK exporters in trade with them.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Spain

Modifications to home compensation tax. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 15 January 1977 and 17 January 1977 published royal decrees 3034, 3035, 3036 and 3040/1976 of the Ministerio de Hacienda modifying the home compensation tax levy as follows:

Tariff no	Description	Home compensation tax
22.09.B.2	Whisky and the like	21% (1)
25.25.A	Meerschaum	9% (2)
29.15.D.1	Dimethyl terephthalate	12% (3)
28.49	Colloidal precious metals, amalgams of precious metals; salts and other compounds of precious metals:	
A	Colloidal precious metals	8%
B	Amalgams of precious metals	8%
C	Salts and other compounds, inorganic or organic of precious metals:	
1	Of silver	8%
2	Of gold	8%
3	Of platinum	8%
4	Of other precious metals	8%
71.06	Rolled silver, unworked or semi-manufactured	9.5%
71.07	Gold, including platinum-plated gold, unwrought or semi-manufactured:	
B	Slabs, plates, sheets and discs	8%
C	Other	8%
71.08	Rolled gold on base metal or silver, unworked or semi-manufactured	9.5%
71.09	Platinum and other metals of the platinum group and their alloys, unwrought or semi-manufactured:	
B	Slabs, plates, sheets and discs	8%
C	Other	8%
71.10	Rolled platinum or other platinum group metals on base metal or precious metal, unworked or semi-manufactured	9.5%
71.12	Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or rolled precious metal:	
A	Articles of jewellery, of solid gold, silver or platinum:	
1	Incorporating precious stones or natural pearls	7%
2	Other	10%
B	Other articles of jewellery:	
1	Of gold, silver or platinum alloys	11%
2	Of rolled gold, rolled silver or rolled platinum	11.5%
71.13	Articles of goldsmiths' or silversmiths' wares and parts thereof, of precious metal or rolled precious metal, other than goods falling within heading 71.12:	
A	Table knives, forks and spoons:	
1	Of gold, silver or platinum	9.5%
2	Of gold silver or platinum alloys	11%
3	Of rolled gold, rolled silver or rolled platinum	11.5%
B	Other:	
1	Of gold, silver or platinum	9%
2	Of gold, silver or platinum alloys	10.5%
3	Of rolled gold, rolled silver or rolled platinum	10.5%
71.14	Other articles of precious metal or rolled precious metal:	
A	Handbags and handbag frames fitted with clasps	10.5%
B	Other	10.5%

(1) Valid from 15 December 1976.
(2) Valid from 15 January 1977.
(3) Valid from 18 January 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/475.

Customs tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 13 January 1977 published royal decree 3028/1976, modifying the Spanish customs tariff sub-heading to read as follows:

Tariff no	Description	Import duty
29.22.A	Acyclic, cyclenic and cycloterpenic amines: their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives and their salts:	
5	Mono, di and trimetilamine	25%
6	Other	4.5%
29.25	Carboxyamide-function compounds: amide-function compounds of carbonic acid:	
I	NN dimetilformamide and NN dimetilacetamide	25%
J	Other	4.5%

The above modifications are valid from 13 Janury 1977.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Foodstuffs: import regulations. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 26 November 1976, published royal decree 2685/1976 establishing new regulations on the manufacture, distribution and marketing of dietary and dietetic foodstuffs.

An English translation of this decree is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Thailand

Tariff changes on cinematograph films. The government of Thailand has introduced the customs tariff royal decree (no. 28) BE 2519 which came into force on 25 December 1976 whereby tariff item CCCN (formerly BTN) 37.07 is amended to read as follows:

Customs tariff item no	Description	Rate of import duty specific: *Ad valorem* (%)	Unit	Per unit (Baht)
37.07	Other cinematograph films, exposed and developed, whether or not incorporating sound track, negative or positive:			
	a For cinematograph films, proven to the satisfaction of the Director-General of Customs, that record real incidents and places without making up and cinematograph films exhibiting technology		Free	
	b For cinematograph films, of a width of 35mm and up, other than those specified in a			
	1 that exposed in foreign countries	—	Metre	30.00
	2 that exposed locally	—	Metre	2.20
	c Others	—	Metre	0.50

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461/469/468.

Trinidad and Tobago

Plastic insulated cables: import licensing. By notice to importers 6 of 1976, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities have announced that licences are now required for the importation under tariff heading 85.23 of plastic (including PVC) insulated cables and wire for electricity up to 3,300V and up to and including 0.75 sq in or 500mm².

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Tunisia

Import duties and taxes: suspension of duties and production tax. The Tunisian *Journal* of 17 December 1976 has announced the suspension of customs duties and production tax on ex CCCN 48.01 B magazine printing paper within a quota of 400 tonnes.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

United States

Escape clause investigation into plant hangers. The International Trade Commission has concluded that increased imports of plant hangers are not a substantial cause of serious injury or the threat thereof to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Escape clause investigation on canned mushrooms. The International Trade Commission have decided that imports of canned mushrooms are a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry and have recommended the imposition of tariff rate quotas as a remedy. The President has 60 days from receipt of the commission's report to make a decision. The tariff rate quotas would, if adopted, last five years and be allocated among supplying countries as follows:

Country	Annual quota (million pounds drained weight)
Taiwan	31.7
South Korea	11.8
Japan	1.4
Dominican Republic	0.7
France	0.6
Costa Rica	0.5
Ecuador	0.5
All others	0.8
Total	48.0

The Trade Policy Staff Committee has invited interested parties who wish to express views to submit briefs to it not later than 31 January 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Imports of speciality steels under quota. Further to the notice which appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 7 January 1977 the following table, derived from statistics made available by the US Customs Service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas on imports from the EEC for the 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 7 January 1977.

Pounds weight

Product	US import quotas for 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977	US imports during this period as at 7 January 1977
Sheet and strips of stainless steel (Item 923.20)	31,600,000	22,427,336
Plates of stainless steel (Item 923.21)	5,800,000	5,398,983
Bars of stainless steel (Item 923.22)	5,000,000	534,262
Wire rods of stainless steel (Item 923.23)	14,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (Item 923.25)	7,000,000	1,892,279
Alloy tool steel (Item 923.26)	6,800,000	4,838,623

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Flammability of children's clothing. The *Federal Register* dated 27 December 1976 published details proposed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to grant a higher standard to the state of California under the Flammable Fabrics Act for flammability of standards for children's clothing imported into California. Written comments (five copies) should be submitted to The Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington DC 20207 by 25 February 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Overseas trade exhibitions

Over £10m worth of business obtained at Heimtex

From R. Weatherburn,
British consulate-general, Frankfurt

Heimtex 1977, the seventh in the series of international trade fairs for floorcoverings and household textiles, held in Frankfurt from 12 to 16 January, got off to a good brisk start. Although the overall number of trade visitors (almost 58,000) was down some 2,000 compared with the 1976 event, exhibitors were of the opinion that the percentage of serious inquiries received during the fair was higher than usual.

Of the total number of visitors about 17,500 came from outside West Germany, The largest number of trade buyers came from France, followed by Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Spain and the Scandinavian countries. There was a noticeable drop in the number of buyers from both Germany and Japan.

British firms at Heimtex formed by far the largest foreign contingent with a total of 151 firms. Of the 140 direct exhibitors, 116 were grouped in three joint ventures sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board in collaboration with the relevant trade associations.

The largest of these, the British Carpet Export Association group, comprised 64 firms. As in the past, group stands were divided between halls 5 and 5A which were entirely devoted to floor coverings.

The range of British carpets on show was absolutely stunning; there were axminsters, wiltons, plain and printed tufted, in a host of colours and patterns. Indeed, there was something to suit every pocket and taste. Brintons showed a new range of very attractive carpets using traditional chinese designs while another company in this joint venture, Cormar Ltd, exhibited a new range of plain coloured tufted carpeting with a difference – the colours having a very attractive 'tie-and-dye' effect. Members of this group saw important customers from Middle East countries, Scandinavia, America, Canada and most European countries, and together took orders in excess of £10 million.

A further 45 British firms (including seven showing with the assistance of the Design Council) made up the joint venture under the auspices of the National Wool Textile Export Corporation.

Firms in this group displayed a very impressive range of curtainings, wall coverings of both wool and linen and general household textiles, such as blankets, bed linen, towels and bathroom sets. Generally speaking, members of this section were pleased with the results achieved although in most cases the number of orders actually booked was down. The consensus of opinion, however, was that the number of serious inquiries received will more than compensate for this in the months to come.

The third of the officially-sponsored groups was that of the Irish Linen Guild which comprised seven firms. Firms in this group enjoyed a most successful fair; indeed two firms described it as their best Heimtex showing to date. On the opening day of the fair Mr J. D. Concannon, Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office, visited this group and the other Northern Ireland firms exhibiting at the fair.

According to a poll conducted by the fair organisers on the fourth day, 91 per cent of the foreign exhibitors expressed satisfaction with business done and inquiries received from non-German visitors but only 70 per cent were satisfied with business done among West German customers. In the opinion of many exhibitors the explanation is quite simple – there were fewer German buyers in attendance. Nevertheless, the majority of exhibitors set out for home feeling greatly encouraged.

UK firms make their mark at Atlanta glassware show

From Roland Willcox,
British consulate-general, Philadelphia

Twenty-two British firms took part in the nineteenth annual china and glass show at Atlantic City, New Jersey, from 13 to 19 January. This was the third successful joint venture at this top-ranking show, the sponsors once again being the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation and the Department of Trade.

Despite snowstorms and the consequent difficult travelling conditions there was another record attendance of over 15,000 buyers.

In the short space of five years the number of exhibitors has doubled and attendance almost tripled, making this one of the most worthwhile order-taking expositions of its kind. Floor space for the last three years has been sold out on each occasion and reservations must be made early, preferably at one show for the next if prime location is desired.

Apart from the invaluable exposure and contact with new accounts the success of this year's British joint venture can be readily measured in valuable foreign exchange. Although full figures are not yet available orders worth over $356,000 were reported taken at the British booths with further orders of nearly the same amount to be confirmed.

Nine members of the joint venture, showing for the second or third time, were pleased with the exposure and renewed customer contact.

Over the past few years the range of products exhibited has expanded from the traditional china, silver and glassware and now every conceivable table-top item, such as kitchenware, giftware, decorative items and jewellery, is on show at prices from a few cents to thousands of dollars.

The most popular items with buyers at this show were silver, pewter, china miniatures and earthenware. According to exhibitors, the Bicentennial has livened interest in the historic motif and at the same time has made the consumer more sophisticated.

The United States business climate is expected to improve in 1977 particularly in the sector covered by this show. British manufacturers should continue to take advantage of a first-class shop window at Atlantic City.

Finance for technology

The National Research Development Corporation provides financial and other support for technological developments of potential commercial importance. NRDC promotes the adoption by industry of new products and processes invented in government laboratories, universities and elsewhere. NRDC is participating in joint ventures with industry on an increasing scale. By supporting projects NRDC makes it possible for individual firms or groups of companies to undertake and accelerate the development and production of new products and processes of national importance. The corporation welcomes submissions in confidence from firms who have promising new projects to launch in any branch of industry or commerce. The conditions for its considering proopsals of this kind are set out in a leaflet which may be obtained on application, either by writing to the National Research Development Corporation, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SL, or by telephoning 01-828 3400.

Overseas trade export successes

Hawker Siddeley generates £6m orders in Middle East

Three orders worth over £6 million have been won by Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering of Burton on the Wolds from Middle East countries.

The first, obtained through consulting engineers, Kennedy and Donkin of Woking and Sharjah, is an order for Sharjah Electricity Department, United Arab Emirates, for a complete diesel power station consisting of two 3,548kW diesel alternator sets together with all radiator cooling, switchgear, building and civil engineering works to a total value of about £4 million.

This was to meet an urgent need by Sharjah for a power station and Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering's generation division obtained the order in less than a fortnight from the initial request.

Hawker Siddeley Group companies at Loughborough, Leicestershire and Blackwood, Gwent, will manufacture equipment for the project.

The site is in a part of the United Arab Emirates which is difficult to reach and where desert conditions prevail with temperatures of 50°C.

The second is a contract for the supply of seven 33/11kV sub-stations worth £1.85 million which will be situated around the capital town of Amman. The contract was awarded by the Jordanian Electric Power Company.

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering's EHV division will be responsible for the supply of all the equipment and its transportation by road from the Jordanian port of Aqaba – a 350km journey from Amman. The company will also be responsible for the erection and commissioning of all the equipment which will be carried out by a local Jordanian contractor under the supervision of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering site staff. The contract will be completed at the end of 1978.

The third is for the supply and installation of a 33/11kV sub-station worth £500,000 at Ruwi in the Sultanate of Oman. The sub-station is to be used as a switching point to control transmission lines which run from Riyam Power Station to Seeb and will have two 13MVA transformers to feed local supplies.

The contract, from the Ministry of Communications and Public Services of the Sultanate of Oman, is due for completion this year, and includes the supply, transport and installation of all equipment and civil works, including testing and commissioning of the plant.

Consultants win overseas contracts

British advice is in world-wide demand. British consultants are advising and supervising the construction of projects in countries ranging from Abu Dhabi to Zambia.

Under the terms of a consultancy agreement, signed in December 1976, International Aeradio Ltd (IAL) will assist the government of Abu Dhabi with the task of evaluating tenders and placing a contract for building and equipping a satellite communications earth station in Abu Dhabi.

The earth station, scheduled for completion in 1978 and costing DH46 million, is to be sited 50km west of Mafrak at Bada Hamana. It will provide Abu Dhabi with direct communication links to overseas countries via the Intelsat global communications system. International Aeradio Ltd, on behalf of the government of Abu Dhabi, will supervise and administer the project.

In Jordan, Sir Fredrick Snow (International) has signed a contract with the Ministry of Transport for the supervision of construction and the review of designs for the Amman new international airport.

It is anticipated that the contract will be completed in about three years and the total value of the work, which includes the runway, taxiways and apron and terminal, control and ancillary buildings, is in excess of £50 million.

A contract for the design and supervision of construction of the final link in a road in southern Africa, which forms part of the international transportation link between Botswana, Zambia and central and east Africa, has been awarded to Brian Colquhoun, Hugh O'Donnell and Partners, consulting engineers.

The 120-mile stretch between Francistown and Nata will complete this inter-regional project, for which the firm undertook a feasibility study eight years ago.

A number of bridge structures are to be built and maximum use made of locally available materials for basic road construction. The road will greatly improve communications and movement of goods between these countries and open up large areas of Botswana for future agricultural and mineral resources development.

Sir William Halcrow and Partners have been appointed by the Directorate General of Sea Communications of the government of Indonesia to undertake detailed design work for the phase one development of the Port of Belawan in North Sumatra. The award follows the multi-disciplinary Indonesian ports study, which Halcrow carried out for the Asian Development Bank and submitted in 1975; this recommended a phased development for Belawan, the first phase constituting the major investment programme, now estimated to be of the order of £40 millon.

Second Avery electronic weighbridge for Iran

Avery Export of Birmingham has won an order from Iran for what the company says is possibly the world's biggest electronic weighbridge.

For the Haft Tappeh sugar-cane project in Ahwaz, the 120 tonne-capacity machine will have a 30m by 4.5m platform designed to carry 27.5m long sugar-cane haulage vehicles weighing up to 90 tonnes gross. The load cells will be connected through Avery's new CTB static digitiser to operate a digital display reading in 50kg increments and a tabulating machine, which will print weights on tickets and tally roll.

APCM wins big cement export orders

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers – the Blue Circle Group – has recently signed two major export contracts to supply large quantities of bulk cement to Nigeria and Venezuela. Together the two contracts could earn for Britain up to £100 million in foreign exchange over the next three years and are the largest export contracts ever gained by British cement producers.

The contract with Nigeria for the bulk supply of a minimum of 750,000 tonnes of

cement a year for three years has been arranged in conjunction with the Nigerian government through the National Supply Company, a government agency. To overcome the port handling difficulties at Lagos and avoid the lengthy delays which occurred last year when 2 million tonnes of cement were shipped in bags to Nigeria by foreign producers, the Northfleet cement will be discharged into bulk silos at Apapa, the port for Lagos.

The Venezuelan contract is for the bulk supply of cement which could be up to 1.8 million tonnes over three years. It represents a new market for Blue Circle bulk cement. As an oil producer, Venezuela has an expanding economy and a strong demand for construction materials. The indigenous cement industry is not able to keep up with demand and the cement from Blue Circle is being sold to the Venezuelan cement industry for distribution.

Eagle obtains specialist vehicle orders

Eagle Engineering of Warwick, a member of the Hestair group of companies, has already this year received export orders worth £450,000. The company, which manufactures specialist vehicles will be producing 76 vehicles for Abu Dhabi, Egypt, Muscat and Nigeria.

The 76 vehicles consist of fire engines, refuse collection vehicles, tippers and cargo bodies. The company sold vehicles valued at over £1 million last year.

Export contracts for Aquastat

Two water treatment contracts worth about £40,000 in Africa and the Middle East have been awarded to Aquastat Ltd.

Reverse osmosis, filtration and scale prevention are being supplied to protect the laboratory, laundry and hot water services at Doha General Hospital, Qatar.

A potable water plant, made and supplied in four weeks, has been designed for Costain's site services during the building of a paper mill in the Cameroons. The equipment includes sedimentation, coagulation, chlorination, filtration, neutralisation and carbon filters.

Fans boost Zambian copper mine output

To cater for a major extension in Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines' deep mining operations Edgar Allen Aerex of Sheffield is supplying a new high-efficiency ventilation installation for the company's Mindola Shaft, near Kitwe, Zambia.

The installation, which will extract vitiated air from the mine is based on two 11 ft 4 in diameter centrifugal fans. The fans are designed to operate in parallel, although if either one is taken out of service 70 per cent of the normal airflow can nevertheless be maintained.

In addition to the fans, motors, and steel ducting for the ventilation system, Edgar Allen Aerex will be supplying a range of auxiliary equipment.

SPP pumps for Kenya sugar project

Sigmund Pulsometer Pumps of Reading has won a further pumps order for the international sugar industry.

The order, valued at more than £32,000, covers a number of pumps for the factory expansion programme at the Mumias Sugar Co in Kenya being undertaken by Fletcher and Stewart of Derby.

The major part of the order covers four axial, mixed-flow units, to be used as injection water pumps supplying water to multi-jet spray condensers. The other pumps are small Unistream end suction pumps, handling clarified and potable water.

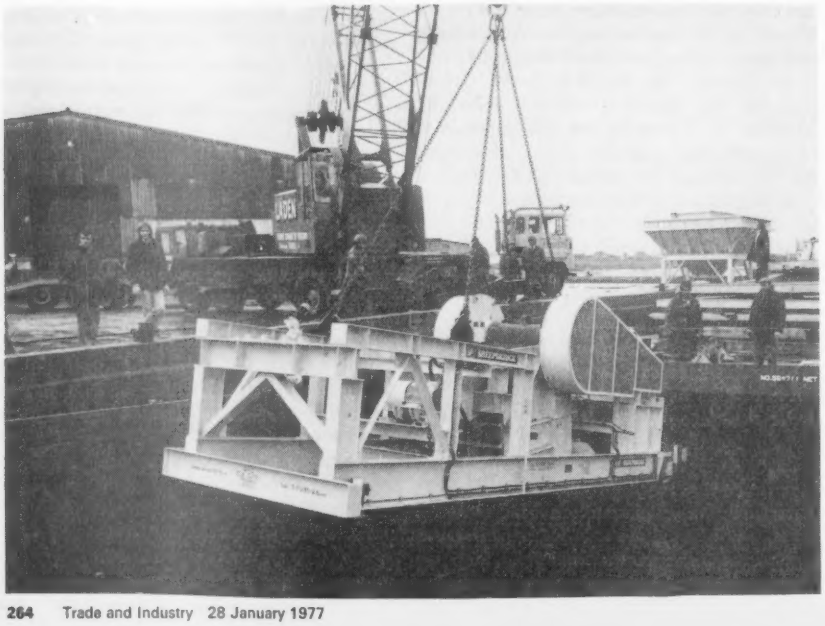
CJB win Brazilian oil contract

Constructors John Brown Offshore have won a substantial contract from Petrobras, the Brazilian state-owned oil company, to provide technical assistance and technological support for deep-water oil production studies and projects.

The contract is believed to be worth £500,000 for the first phase. The agreement also provides for additional engineering and supervisory services at other locations.

British crusher for Jeddah

Part of a £200,000 plus contract for a complete Sheepbridge portable crushing and screening plant, being loaded into a barge on the Medway river for transhipment by the Lash System to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The complete shipment, which included the skid mounted primary jaw crushing plant (shown here) and a secondary flat cone crusher, weighs about 133 tonnes and will be used to reduce 500mm lumps of granite to four sizes of aggregates, the smallest being less than 4mm.



PCM for Irish Republic

More Marconi PCM (pulse code modulation) equipment has been purchased by the Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs for use in the Irish Republic's telephone system.

Under the terms of the latest contract, Marconi Communication Systems, a GEC-Marconi Electronics company, is to supply two additional 24-channel systems for use on the Cork-Midleton route to supplement six existing systems. Delivery of the equipment is to commence shortly and is scheduled for completion by June 1977.

Speedcranes win orders from Spain

Speedcranes, who design and manufacture fast cargo handling equipment, have won their first ever order from Spain.

A total of 21 Speedcranes is to be fitted on three 18,000 dwt general cargo ships being built in Seville.

Speedcranes will supply all the designs and part of the manufacture – the rest of the job being sub-contracted within Spain.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976			
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,323	−5,220	1,897
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,656	−3,204	1,548
1976										−1,526	−3,611	2,085
1974 2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	562	321	197	43	19	−858	−1,355	497
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−763	−1,242	479
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−904	−1,335	431
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−449	−852	403
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−357	−681	324
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−555	−989	434
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−295	−682	387
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,876	2,427	402	460	38	31	23	12	−3	−448	445
2nd qtr.	108	8,812	2,343	408	474	−118	−115	−22	−55	−497	−968	471
3rd qtr.	108 p	8,928	2,444	411	472	−27	5	3	22	−597	−1,166	569
4th qtr		8,955								−429	−1,029	600
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	0.0	+1.1	−1.8	+1.4	+1.1							
on a year earlier	+1.3	+1.2	−4.0	−4.8	−4.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices										at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.2	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1976			107.8 p	103.8 p									135.4 p	134.2 p
1975 1st qtr.	104.7	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.8	3.1	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	100.3	100.5	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.6	99.7	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.4	100.4	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	102.0	102.0	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	131.6	124.1
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.4	106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	137.1	136.7
3rd qtr.	101.3	103.2	108.7	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7	133.1	137.2
4th qtr.			108.4 p	106p									139.8 p	138.7 p
1975 Nov.	100.8	100.9	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.8	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.8	99.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.4	101.8	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	131.5	125.1
Feb.	102.6	102.2	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	127.0
Mar.	102.1	102.0	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	134.9	119.9
Apr.	102.3	103.1	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.8	134.0
May	104.4	106.2	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	138.2	139.7
June	100.4	101.0	106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	138.4	137.7
July	101.3	103.5	108.3	87	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.9	140.3
Aug.	100.5	102.3	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	132.6	131.2
Sept.	102.1	103.9	108.8	88	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.7	140.1
Oct.	102.5	104.3	107.3	104	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p	140.1	142.6
Nov.	102.6	103.8	109.3	111	165.8	15.0	331.8 p	234.4 p	220.7	..	..	..	136.6	142.2
Dec.			108½ p	102	168.0	15.1	330.7 p	237.3 p	221.5 p	1,330.0	5.6 e	..	142.6 p	131.4 p
1977 Jan.										1,345.3	5.7 p	..		
% change latest qtr. on prev. qtr.	+1.6	+1.7	−0.3	+9.3	+4.6		+7.6	+4.8	+0.7	+1.5		+8.6	+5	+1
on a year earlier	+1.8	+3.3	+2.6	+25.3	+14.9		+28.9	+17.4	+13.8	+13.5		−0.8	+9	+9

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100.. not available ø Average of 11 months e estimate

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Regional selective assistance

The table below shows offers of £10,000 or more made since 31 July 1974 under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 against which a first payment to the company concerned was made in the period 1 July to 30 September 1976. Offers of interest relief grant with a loan equivalent of £10,000 or more are also shown.

Region and company	Type of assistance (see notes at foot of table)	Amount of assistance committed (£)	Reason (see notes at foot of table)
SCOTLAND			
E. J. Arnold and Son Ltd	IRG	28,500	A
Association of Certified Accountants	RG (3)	13,690	A
Alex S. Donald Ltd	IRG	22,540	A
EPS (Moulders) Ltd	IRG	54,050	A
Ettrick and Yarrow Spinners Ltd	IRG	40,000	A
R. B. Farquhar Ltd	IRG	15,925	A
Fife Fire Engineers and Consultants Ltd	IRG	2,820	A
General Motors Scotland Ltd	IRG	1,400,000	A
Glen Carpets Ltd	IRG	17,500	A
Halliburton Manufacturing and Services Ltd	IRG and RG	1,486,917	A
Havelock Tailoring Ltd	IRG	40,500	A
Humphrey and Glasgow Ltd	RG (2)	57,350	A
International Sports Co Ltd	IRG	8,400	A
Intertext Group Ltd	IRG and RG (2)	66,560	A
Inver Industrial Ltd	IRG	3,600	A
Kyle Knitwear Ltd	IRG	3,675	A
John McCormick and Co Ltd	IRG	23,500	A
The Marconi Co Ltd	IRG	94,000	A
Marshall Manufacturing Co Ltd	IRG	22,050	A
Hugh Martin and Sons (Carluke) Ltd	IRG	11,750	A
Pullman Pans Ltd	IRG	7,200	A
Ross and Hilliard Ltd	L	50,000	A
Ryder Manufacturing Co Ltd	IRG	13,440	A
South Bay Engineering (Peterhead) Ltd	IRG	31,850	A
Taylor Instrument Companies (Europe) Ltd	IRG and RG	68,000	A
Tomerix Fabrications Ltd	IRG	14,100	A
Ultraglide Ltd	IRG	10,800	A
Henry Winning and Co Ltd	IRG	4,900	A
Total		3,613,617	
WALES			
Automotive Engineering Ltd	IRG	102,500	A
BB Shotblast Engineering Services (Plant) Ltd	IRG	6,800	A
Davenco (Engineers) Ltd	L	30,000	B
Fix Knitting Industry Ltd	L	270,000	A
Grundy Auto Products Ltd	IRG and RG	164,000	A
Henley Forklift Group Ltd	L	500,000	A
Home Insulation Ltd	IRG	84,000	A
David Lewis and Sons Ltd	L	26,000	B
Matsushita Electric (UK) Ltd	IRG	370,000	A
Powell Duffryn Engineering Ltd	IRG and RG	80,500	A
Rowecord Engineering Ltd	IRG	10,000	A
Sansoms (Newport) Ltd	IRG	3,100	A
Shaw and Torkington Ltd	IRG	3,100	A
Stevens Engineering (Mon) Ltd	IRG	33,000	A
Strong Electric Corporation (GB) Ltd	IRG	12,600	A
John Williams of Cardiff Ltd	IRG	31,500	A
Total		1,727,100	
YORKSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE			
Airedale Air Conditioning Ltd	IRG	4,752	A
Anglia Casting and Engineering Ltd	IRG and RG	8,891	A
Aronstead Ltd	IRG and RG	55,198	A
Avena Carpets Ltd	IRG	2,223	A
Barclays Bank Ltd	RG (2)	38,200	A
Beacon Dyeing Company Ltd	IRG	10,000	A
Blacks Equipment Ltd	IRG	8,541	A
Blundell-Permoglaze Ltd	RG (2)	13,064	A
British Domestic Appliances Ltd	IRG and RG	4,742	A
Champion Associated Weavers Ltd	IRG	76,588	A
Crompton Parkinson Ltd	IRG	22,000	A
Doubtfire Engineering Co Ltd	IRG	8,888	A
Foxon and Robinson Ltd	L	25,000	A
Holdsworth Electronic Developments Ltd	IRG	2,748	A
Ben Johnson and Co Ltd	IRG	17,640	A
Marston Radiators Ltd	IRG	25,807	A
Midland Bank Ltd	RG (2)	13,883	A
Mining Supplies Ltd	IRG	42,907	A
Omec Engineering Ltd	IRG	4,900	A
Permac Packaging Ltd	IRG	5,922	A
Tanks and Drums Ltd	IRG	14,621	A
J. H. Walker Ltd	IRG	17,148	A
West Riding Pressings Ltd	IRG	3,880	A
Total		427,543	

Region and company	Type of assistance (see notes at foot of table)	Amount of assistance committed (£)	Reason (see notes at foot of table)
NORTH WEST			
Andantex Ltd	IRG	4,640	A
Babcock and Wilcox Ltd	IRG	204,130	A
Bermadou Ltd	IRG	15,990	A
Boiler Ancillary Services Ltd	IRG	3,600	A
British Vita Company Ltd	IRG	13,900	A
British Vita Company Ltd	IRG	15,675	A
Bryant and May Ltd	IRG	46,550	A
Courtaulds Ltd	IRG	1,888	A
Dale Graphic Equipment Ltd	IRG	2,817	A
Doulton Glass Industries Ltd	IRG	39,000	A
Garrick Engineering Co Ltd	IRG	3,655	A
Halwins Ltd	RG (3)	169,800	A
Harrison and Jones (Flexible Foam) Ltd	IRG	34,000	A
IMS Lycrett Ltd	IRG	5,760	A
Ingersoll-Rand Co Ltd	IRG	520,000	A
Arnold Kinnings and Sons Ltd	IRG	4,680	A
Koters (Liverpool) Ltd	IRG	82,500	A
Phillips Optical Co (Liverpool) Ltd	IRG	11,700	A
Phoenix Packaging Ltd	L	35,000	A
Polythene Drums (Lancashire) Ltd	IRG	118,000	A
Protector Safety Products (UK) Ltd	IRG and RG	22,314	A
Reclamat International Ltd	IRG and RG	67,811	A
Scholaquip Industries Ltd	IRG	3,400	A
Snugkoat Ltd	IRG	4,760	A
Solrec Ltd	IRG	8,575	A
The Valor Co Ltd	L	900,000	A
Total		2,340,145	
NORTHERN			
Auto Electrics (Teeside) Ltd	IRG	9,900	A
Audus Noble Ltd	IRG	6,000	A
Brentford Nylons (1976) Ltd	L	5,000,000	B
John Burgon and Sons Ltd	IRG	5,000	A
Clearex Plastics Ltd	IRG and RG	26,000	A
The Davy Roll Company Ltd	IRG	16,800	A
Filmco International Ltd	IRG	41,300	A
Foam-plastic Ltd	IRG	18,800	A
Hindson Printing Group Ltd	IRG	6,800	A
Kimberley Clark Ltd	IRG	97,000	A
North East Steel (Sales) Co Ltd	IRG	5,175	A
Peal Furniture Co Ltd	IRG	30,000	A
W. and M. Thompson Ltd	IRG	10,920	A
Tor Coatings Ltd	IRG	7,200	A
Total		5,280,895	
EAST AND WEST MIDLANDS			
Bootham Engineers Ltd	IRG	4,600	A
Brett Plastics Ltd	IRG	11,000	A
Dialene International Ltd	IRG and RG	32,400	A
Monarch Textile Convertors Ltd	RG	16,900	A
John Shaw Ltd	IRG	17,640	A
Total		82,540	
SOUTH WEST			
Actuated Controls Ltd	IRG and RG	12,905	A
Anglo American Vulcanised Fibre Co Ltd	RG	27,000	A
Kelly's Cornish Dairy Ice Cream Ltd	IRG	36,580	A
D. J. Morgan Engineering (Caithdene) Ltd	L	70,000	B
		146,485	
Total amount of assistance committed		13,618,325	
Total amount paid in regional selective assistance during period		12,166,000	

Notes:
A = New jobs being created;
B = Preservation of employment;
IRG = Interest Relief Grant;
L = Loan;
RG = Removal Grants

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Survey of short term export prospects

This note presents the results of the fifth survey of short term export prospects carried out by the Department of Trade among the United Kingdom's top exporting companies.

The broad picture which emerges from the survey appears to be one of a continuing period of growth in the volume of total exports, in the first half of 1977, possibly at a more moderate rate than during the recovery in 1976.

The first four surveys were run largely on an experimental basis. It was felt, however, that the results obtained were of sufficient value and interest both within and outside government to warrant continuing the inquiry and publishing the results. Companies were invited to continue to respond and most have agreed to do so. In addition, a small number of firms, which were not in the original list of the top 75 exporters but which appear in the latest list, have also been asked to participate in the survey. The results of the fourth survey, covering the period from the second quarter of 1976 to the first quarter of 1977, were published in *Trade and Industry* on 10 September 1976.

In the latest survey, the period covered was the third quarter of 1976 to the second quarter of 1977. Replies have been received from 67 companies; the returns covered three-eighths of the total value of UK exports, slightly higher than the final coverage of the fourth survey.

The questionnaire asked for the actual value of firms' export deliveries in the third quarter of 1976 and forecasts for the subsequent three quarters; the percentage change these values represented over the same quarter a year earlier; and how this change was divided between movements in prices and in volume.

The results from totalling the figures received from the 67 companies are shown in table 1. The main features are:

1 The value of exports of responding firms grew more rapidly between third quarter 1975 and third quarter 1976 than did total UK exports.
2 This larger increase reflected a less marked rise in prices more than offset by a more rapid expansion of volume.
3 The volume forecasts have been revised downwards since the last survey, but suggest that the volume of the major companies' exports will continue to increase in the first half of this year, when companies see their export volume 6-8 per cent higher than in the first half of 1976. In the second half of 1976 the companies saw the volume of their exports being about 12 per cent higher than in the same period of 1975.
4 Companies now expect a slightly faster rate of growth than indicated in previous surveys in their sterling export prices, with on present estimates possibly some slow down in the second quarter of the year.
5 Taking volume and price movements together, the value of their exports is expected to be some 25 per cent higher in the first half of this year compared with the first half of last year, rather less than the 32 per cent increase for the second half of 1976 compared with a year earlier.

In interpreting the results of the survey for the prospects of exports as a whole, two possible sources of bias need to be borne in mind. First, there is the degree of variation in the successive forecasts made by the companies themselves and their relationship to the outturn they subsequently report. An indication of the variability is given in table 2 where, for example, the initial value forecast for the third quarter of 1976, made in January of that year, was subsequently considerably revised upwards in the April survey (but then subsequently remained at that level which was close to their eventual outturn), while for the fourth quarter of 1976, the first value forecast, made in April 1976, was revised upwards in the July survey and then slightly downwards again in this latest survey.

The second source of bias is the relationship between the recorded information for the large exporters and for total exports. Table 3 compares figures of changes in value, volume and price on a quarterly basis for the five surveys to date.

In terms of value, the large exporters' exports were initially reported as having risen less sharply than total exports; there was, however, close agreement between both sets of figures in the first two quarters of 1976. In the third quarter, the exports of the contributors to the survey have shown a tendency to rise slightly more rapidly than total exports. By volume, the reported movements have generally been sharper than those for total exports, showing a more substantial fall in the third quarter 1975, but subsequently a faster rate of recovery. The phenomenon of major exporters' price increases apparently being less than those shown for total exports, a very strong feature of the first surveys, has become less marked in the current round of the inquiry. The survey results must still, therefore, be regarded with caution.

TABLE 1. Movement in UK exports between Q3 1976 and Q2 1977 by value, volume and price

		Recorded UK exports (a)	Fifth survey results for major exporters (b)			
		1976	1976		1977	
		3rd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter
Value	£ million	6,260	2,207	2,466	2,621	2,825
	% increase on a year earlier	30½ (c)	33½	29½	24½	26
Volume	% increase on a year earlier	8 (c)	13	10	5½	8½
Price	% increase on a year earlier	21 (d)	18	18	18½	16

(a) Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.
(b) Aggregated from returns received from 67 companies.
(c) If exports of precious stones are excluded the figures become 29% and 7% respectively.
(d) Average value index. See footnote to Table 3.

TABLE 2 Comparison of latest survey with previous rounds

% increases on a year earlier

	1976 3rd quarter				1976 4th quarter			1977 1st quarter	
	S2	S3	S4	S5	S3	S4	S5	S4	S5
Value	22½	33	32	33½	24½	31½	29½	24½	24½
Volume	8½	14½	13	13	9½	13½	10	8½	5½
Price	12½	16½	17	18	13½	16	18	15	18½

S2 Second survey, January 1976. Returns from 67 companies (final results).
S3 Third survey, April 1976. Returns from 68 companies (final results).
S4 Fourth survey, July 1976. Returns from 70 companies (final results).
S5 Fifth survey, November 1976. Returns from 67 companies.

TABLE 3 Companies reported increases in exports compared with actuals*

Percentage changes on a year earlier

		Value		Volume		Price†	
		EPS	Actual	EPS	Actual	EPS	Actual
1975	3rd quarter	3½	14	−9½	−7½	13½	23
	4th quarter	13	20½	−½	−½	13½	21
1976	1st quarter	26	25	9½	5	15	19
	2nd quarter	26	26½	8	4½	16	21
	3rd quarter	33½	29	13	7	18	20½

* Recorded OTS less precious stones.
† The price index is the average value index obtained by dividing the value of exports by the volume figure. This is likely to be closer to the figures given by firms than the unit value index.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	ø fifty-three week
p provisional	period

Census of production, 1975: provisional results

The following table presents estimates of some of the principal results of the Census of Production, 1975 with comparative data, where available, for 1970-74, for the manufacturing and construction industries (Orders III-XX) of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 1968. A Business Monitor, PA 1000, will be available in March from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. This Monitor will provide information for the same years but with more detailed headings for each of the industries in the manufacturing sector together with those in Order II (mining and quarrying) and XXI (gas, electricity and water). Comparable data will also be included for Order XX (construction) for the Censuses for 1974 and 1975.

The census for 1975 is the sixth of the annual series conducted by the Department of Industry's Business Statistics Office (BSO) under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, and for Northern Ireland by the Department of Commerce, Belfast, under the Statistics of Trade (Northern Ireland) Act, 1949. The information collected separately for Northern Ireland is included in the United Kingdom totals published in this table and in the Business Monitors. The censuses of production form part of a system of industrial statistics which was mainly brought into operation between 1970 and 1973. The rest of the system comprises quarterly inquiries into the product sales of manufacturing industries supplemented by less frequent inquiries into additional subjects including purchases of goods and services by industry. The main objective of the series of annual censuses is to provide information about the structure of industry which will be useful to industry, economic analysts and government alike. The censuses make possible the comparison of the characteristics of an

Output, employment and capital expenditure 1970-1975

All United Kingdom establishments classified to manufacturing and construction

Standard Industrial Classification	Year	Total employment	Gross output	Net output		Net capital expenditure
				Total	Per head	
Order		Thousand	£ million	£ million	£	£ million
III to XIX All manufacturing industries	1970	8,033.3	47,359.6	18,532.1	2,307	2,164.3
	1971	7,829.8	50,324.3	19,847.3	2,535	2,203.1
	1972	7,521.9	53,759.9	21,942.8	2,917	1,977.3
	1973	7,669.6	64,823.8	26,761.4	3,489	2,428.6
	1974	7,699.6	83,642.6	32,386.6	4,206	3,181.3
	1975	7,504.4	95,915.4	37,065.9	4,939	3,714.6
III Food, drink and tobacco	1970	793.5	9,157.3	2,346.9	2,958	238.3
	1971	793.8	9,745.1	2,581.7	3,252	258.8
	1972	777.6	10,345.5	2,903.3	3,734	279.2
	1973	786.5	11,936.9	3,492.7	4,441	365.8
	1974	795.9	14,622.7	4,029.9	5,063	471.7
	1975	773.4	17,615.4	4,803.1	6,210	473.7
IV Coal and petroleum products	1970	36.6	1,256.4	239.1	6,533	83.2
	1971	37.4	1,563.9	258.6	6,922	133.1
	1972	37.5	1,664.6	272.7	7,275	116.9
	1973	36.2	2,093.9	281.5	7,779	47.7
	1974	37.0	5,183.8	741.1	20,030	67.8
	1975	37.1	6,054.8	842.1	22,698	90.2
V Chemicals and allied industries	1970	425.4	3,901.6	1,693.7	3,981	384.1
	1971	412.1	4,166.9	1,827.8	4,435	367.9
	1972	394.2	4,505.7	1,991.9	5,054	278.0
	1973	399.6	5,545.2	2,400.6	6,008	243.9
	1974	406.8	8,176.1	3,225.5	7,929	350.3
	1975	408.4	8,851.2	3,491.6	8,549	591.7
VI Metal manufacture	1970	576.0	4,404.3	1,463.8	2,541	286.4
	1971	546.0	3,934.7	1,269.9	2,326	357.1
	1972	503.5	4,236.2	1,393.9	2,769	275.2
	1973	505.4	5,600.6	1,821.3	3,604	302.3
	1974	495.7	7,209.6	2,564.8	5,174	399.7
	1975	494.5	7,474.2	2,489.2	5,034	630.7
VII Mechanical engineering	1970	1,047.0	4,995.3	2,401.8	2,294	164.3
	1971	1,006.1	5,348.7	2,575.1	2,560	149.3
	1972	899.5	5,110.3	2,537.6	2,821	137.8
	1973	924.6	6,163.9	3,073.4	3,324	200.4
	1974	937.3	7,782.2	3,665.5	3,914	254.1
	1975	921.5	9,745.1	4,667.4	5,065	296.6
VIII Instrument engineering	1970	177.0	650.0	342.1	1,933	24.8
	1971	174.1	697.4	376.4	2,162	22.8
	1972	162.0	708.2	376.0	2,321	24.3
	1973	174.1	886.8	465.1	2,671	38.6
	1974	171.6	1,099.8	574.9	3,350	44.3
	1975	166.8	1,254.6	667.3	4,000	47.7
IX Electrical engineering	1970	773.1	3,597.8	1,638.6	2,120	122.2
	1971	757.6	3,873.2	1,824.9	2,409	120.4
	1972	732.9	4,171.1	2,038.2	2,781	121.7
	1973	771.9	5,154.8	2,402.0	3,112	151.7
	1974	790.1	6,281.3	2,956.0	3,741	249.0
	1975	762.0	7,363.4	3,515.3	4,613	256.6
X Shipbuilding and marine engineering	1970	182.7	632.2	314.6	1,722	28.5
	1971	177.3	726.1	360.9	2,036	27.0
	1972	179.9	802.9	406.4	2,259	23.0
	1973	180.6	885.0	456.0	2,524	42.5
	1974	172.4	981.6	511.2	2,965	67.8
	1975	171.5	1,275.0	634.2	3,698	72.7

industry either between years or with other industries in the same year.

Coverage

The censuses for 1970-75 covered establishments engaged in manufacturing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply. From the census for 1974 the coverage has been extended to include construction (Order XX). A return was required in the 1975 census from each establishment with 20 or more employees. In the construction industry, where firms employing less than 20 persons account for a relatively high proportion of total employment and output, a sample was taken of establishments with less than 20 employees.

Results

The figures in the table include estimates for non-respondents, unsatisfactory returns and establishments with less than 20 employees which are not required to make returns.

Final results of the 1975 census, including analyses by size of establishment and by region, will appear in 161 separate industry Business Monitors (PA series), the publication of which should begin in the first quarter of 1978. Publication of the final results for the 1973 census has commenced and it is expected that publication of the 1974 results will begin in the second half of 1977.

The table gives comparative data for 1970-75. The results for 1970-72 are compiled from the final industry Monitors for 1972. Although the 1973 and 1974 results are mainly those given in the provisional results for those years, some 1973 results are now final and some improved estimates have been included for both years. The definition of sales of goods produced, etc, of other costs and net output differ slightly between 1970-72 and 1973-75. That for net output is explained below.

Definition and notes

Employment relates to the number of persons on the payroll on the average during the year of return, whether full or part-time employees, including working proprietors. Gross output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done increased by the rise (or

Standard Industrial Classification	Year	Total employment	Gross output	Net output		Net capital expenditure
				Total	Per head	
Order		Thousand	£ million	£ million	£	£ million
XI Vehicles	1970	802.3	4,631.4	1,693.2	2,110	227.8
	1971	789.3	4,970.0	1,749.8	2,217	168.2
	1972	774.6	5,338.8	2,171.4	2,803	117.5
	1973	793.9	6,044.1	2,551.1	3,214	176.9
	1974	788.0	6,909.1	2,744.0	3,482	229.0
	1975	776.4	8,320.5	3,250.0	4,186	249.4
XII Metal goods not elsewhere specified	1970	557.1	2,589.5	1,162.3	2,087	97.9
	1971	546.7	2,732.7	1,239.2	2,267	96.5
	1972	539.2	2,970.2	1,350.2	2,504	97.3
	1973	546.4	3,583.0	1,637.2	2,996	104.0
	1974	557.6	4,675.3	1,988.6	3,566	170.3
	1975	537.1	5,231.9	2,312.3	4,305	176.6
XIII Textiles	1970	652.6	2,960.2	1,145.0	1,755	147.0
	1971	612.6	3,019.2	1,197.8	1,955	124.0
	1972	577.6	3,211.7	1,293.7	2,240	110.0
	1973	586.6	4,011.2	1,688.5	2,879	200.7
	1974	576.1	4,718.4	1,814.4	3,149	234.1
	1975	546.6	4,929.6	1,875.1	3,430	222.2
XIV Leather, leather goods and fur	1970	45.7	219.5	79.5	1,738	4.6
	1971	45.3	236.3	89.2	1,970	5.0
	1972	44.0	297.8	103.8	2,357	5.5
	1973	43.0	342.6	109.5	2,551	7.7
	1974	42.5	372.6	131.1	3,085	10.4
	1975	42.2	412.7	147.5	3,495	9.9
XV Clothing and footwear	1970	450.3	1,240.2	571.2	1,269	21.1
	1971	454.6	1,387.9	646.2	1,421	18.8
	1972	446.1	1,477.7	701.8	1,573	25.2
	1973	445.1	1,749.0	822.2	1,847	35.8
	1974	434.9	2,065.8	937.3	2,155	43.9
	1975	423.7	2,406.9	1,144.3	2,701	36.4
XVI Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc	1970	296.4	1,347.5	684.2	2,309	87.5
	1971	287.0	1,550.0	803.0	2,798	95.6
	1972	290.3	1,797.5	938.3	3,232	104.5
	1973	281.7	1,939.8	1,148.8	4,079	135.9
	1974	283.9	2,321.3	1,289.0	4,540	176.5
	1975	272.8	2,864.7	1,607.0	5,891	152.1
XVII Timber, furniture, etc	1970	267.0	1,328.7	533.2	1,997	32.0
	1971	261.9	1,537.1	624.9	2,386	39.6
	1972	263.9	1,814.9	764.2	2,895	56.4
	1973	276.8	2,499.9	1,055.4	3,814	84.1
	1974	271.2	2,867.0	1,118.6	4,125	84.9
	1975	264.0	3,002.8	1,191.3	4,513	74.5
XVIII Paper, printing and publishing	1970	607.0	2,894.9	1,462.5	2,409	131.6
	1971	592.4	3,156.2	1,599.6	2,700	116.5
	1972	571.0	3,487.4	1,790.6	3,136	107.7
	1973	577.7	4,174.0	2,226.6	3,855	156.1
	1974	591.2	5,503.8	2,743.7	4,641	190.9
	1975	576.8	6,060.7	2,911.7	5,048	216.7
XIX Other manufacturing industries	1970	343.8	1,552.8	760.5	2,212	83.2
	1971	335.6	1,678.9	822.3	2,450	102.6
	1972	328.0	1,819.4	908.8	2,771	97.1
	1973	339.5	2,213.1	1,129.5	3,327	134.5
	1974	347.4	2,872.2	1,351.0	3,889	136.6
	1975	329.6	3,051.9	1,516.5	4,601	116.9
XX Construction	1974	1,508.5	12,932.1	5,623.8	3,728	350.5
	1975	1,437.1	14,124.4	6,269.9	4,363	358.7

reduced by the fall) during the year in the value of work in progress and goods on hand for sale. Net output, a customary census measure, is calculated by deducting from gross output the cost of purchases (reduced by the rise or increased by the fall, during the year of stocks of materials, etc) and the cost of industrial services received and, where applicable, duties, etc.

This is the explanation of the term net output used for 1973-75 when, except for mining and quarrying industries, the amounts paid to other organisations for transport were not generally separately distinguished in the questionnaires. For 1970-72 data on this item were collected and with the items described above, deducted from gross output to obtain net output. The discontinuity between 1970-72 and 1973-75 in the net output series is relatively small. Net output for 1970-72 in the industry Monitors for 1973 is being revised on to the new basis. PA 1000 (1976) will include these figures which will provide a consistent series 1970-76. Net capital expenditure is the value of new building work and acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery. Capital expenditure in respect of establishments where production had not commenced before the end of the year, is included.

Figures in the table have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest final digit. There may, therefore, be an apparent slight discrepancy between a sum of constituent items and a total shown.

Further notes and definitions are given in Business Monitor PA 1000. Information on the PA series of Business Monitors and on the censuses generally can be obtained from the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG, tel. Newport 56111 (STD Code 0633) ext. 2455.

Index of retail prices for December 1976

The index of retail prices for all items for 14 December 1976 was 168.0 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.3 per cent on November 1976 (165.8) and of 15.1 per cent on December 1975 (146.0).

The rise in the index in December was due to increases in the prices of most foods, particularly some vegetables and other seasonal foods; to increases in mortgage interest payments, motoring costs and average charges for gas and other fuels; and to increases in the prices of many other goods and services.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1

	All items			All items except seasonal foods		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index Jan 15 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1976						
July	156.3	+0.2	+12.9	156.8	+0.9	+6.2
August	158.5	+1.4	+13.8	158.5	+1.1	+6.4
September	160.6	+1.3	+14.3	160.0	+0.9	+7.0
October	163.5	+1.8	+14.7	162.8	+1.8	+7.0
November	165.8	+1.4	+15.0	164.8	+1.2	+6.9
December	168.0	+1.3	+15.1	166.8	+1.2	+7.3

TABLE 2 General index of retail prices

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	16 Nov. 1976	14 Dec. 1976	
All items	165.8	168.0	+1.3
All items excluding food	163.8	165.6	+1.1
Food	172.7	176.1	+2.0
Seasonal food	192.8	202.1	+4.8
Other food	169.1	171.4	+1.4
Alcoholic drink	165.8	166.9	+0.7
Tobacco	178.1	179.7	+0.9
Housing	147.9	153.6	+3.9
Fuel and light	194.9	196.7	+0.9
Durable household goods	151.0	151.8	+0.5
Clothing and footwear	145.9	146.8	+0.6
Transport and vehicles	175.4	176.4	+0.6
Miscellaneous goods	169.4	170.8	+0.8
Services	164.2	164.8	+0.4
Meals out	167.0	169.1	+1.3

Index of industrial production for November 1976

The provisional estimate for the total all-industries' index in November 1976 is 102.6 and that for manufacturing alone is 103.8 (1970 = 100).

Output rose slightly during autumn 1976 after changing little in the summer months.

It is provisionally estimated that the average level of the all-industries' index of 1976, before any adjustment to allow for the use of delivery indicators, was some 1½ per cent above its level for the preceding three months; the index for manufacturing industries moved similarly. The analysis by broad market sectors shows that, over the same period, the output of the intermediate goods industries rose by 3½ per cent, the output of the consumer goods industries rose by 2 per cent, and the output of the investment goods industries was little changed.

It should be noted that these three month on three month comparisons may however overstate the increase because of distortions in the June 1976 figures caused by some industrial establishments taking holidays immediately after the Spring Bank Holiday; the seasonal adjustment process may not have fully reflected this changing holiday pattern.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. (Deliveries and production in a month are likely to differ because of movements in stocks of finished goods and work in progress.)

The effect of this on the all-industries' index has been to understate the level of output in the first quarter of 1976 by nearly ½ per cent, overstate it by ¾ per cent in the second quarter and by about ½ per cent again in the third quarter.

On a longer term comparison, the all-industries' index in the latest three months was nearly 2 per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; the corresponding rise for manufacturing was nearly 3½ per cent.

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.

Manufacturers' stocks in November

It is estimated that manufacturers' stocks rose by about £10 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in November.

Stocks of materials and fuel appear to have fallen substantially during the month but were offset by rises in stocks of finished goods and work in progress.

Monthly figures from January 1975 are shown below:

£ million

		1970 prices seasonally adjusted
1975	January	+10
	February	+20
	March	−10
	April	−30
	May	−10
	June	−70
	July	−80
	August	−50
	September	−100
	October	−70
	November	−10
	December	+10
1976	January	+40
	February	no change
	March	−10
	April	−90
	May	+40
	June	−60
	July	−50
	August	+20
	September	+30
	October	no change
	November	+10

Inquiries: 01-215 3176/5215.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
				Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
					Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	850	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1971	100.5	100.1	100.0	99.7	100.6	99.9	101.7	103.3	102.1	99.4	100.2	100.8	101.7	96.6	100.2	93.6
1972	102.7	102.4	84.1	102.4	104.9	104.0	106.4	102.5	108.1	100.1	95.0	93.0	110.2	91.8	104.2	95.7
1973	110.3	110.8	92.6	111.0	109.3	106.3	114.2	110.0	120.9	108.3	103.4	101.7	125.2	95.1	107.1	103.2
1974	106.4	107.9	78.8	108.2	109.9	104.5	118.8	106.0	127.9	106.7	103.4	104.9	120.6	98.9	102.5	103.9
1975	101.3	102.6	86.0	101.7	108.6	101.1	121.0	92.0	116.2	101.8	102.0	101.1	113.1	99.4	96.2	94.8
1975 1st qtr	104.7	106.7	87.3	106.1	108.3	101.2	119.9	95.9	119.3	107.0	104.3	104.8	120.5	100.4	102.4	103.4
2nd qtr	100.3	101.5	85.4	100.5	106.9	99.0	119.8	91.6	113.2	101.5	103.5	104.9	112.8	99.9	92.8	94.4
3rd qtr	99.6	100.5	84.4	99.7	108.5	99.3	123.7	92.3	112.5	100.0	100.2	99.4	111.7	98.0	95.3	91.4
4th qtr	100.4	101.8	86.8	100.4	110.8	104.7	120.8	88.2	119.9	98.5	99.9	95.4	107.3	99.5	94.3	90.1
1976 1st qtr	102.0	103.5	88.0	102.0	106.1	101.2	114.0	94.6	124.1	99.2	99.1	97.8	108.2	99.3	96.0	92.4
2nd qtr	102.4	104.4	89.8	103.4	112.0	105.5	122.7	96.7	126.8	100.4	99.4	104.0	112.2	99.0	95.8	92.1
3rd qtr	101.3	103.8	87.5	103.2	111.9	103.2	126.2	96.3	128.7	99.2	96.2	104.3	112.8	97.3	95.7	91.3
1975 Sep	100.3	101.4	85	100.4	110	100	127	92	117	100	100	98	111	97	96	92
Oct	100.6	102.0	87	100.7	110	103	122	93	119	99	100	96	108	101	93	91
Nov	100.8	102.2	87	100.9	110	104	120	85	119	99	100	95	107	99	97	91
Dec	99.8	101.1	86	99.5	112	106	121	87	122	98	100	95	107	99	94	88
1976 Jan	101.4	102.7	90	101.8	103	99	109	91	121	99	99	96	107	99	94	95
Feb	102.6	104.2	88	102.2	106	101	112	94	124	99	99	98	108	100	98	91
Mar	102.1	103.6	86	102.0	110	103	120	98	127	99	100	100	109	99	96	91
Apr	102.3	104.3	90	103.1	112	106	124	99	126	100	100	103	112	99	95	90
May	104.4	106.8	90	106.2	112	107	120	92	126	103	100	104	112	100	102	98
Jun	100.4	102.1	89	101.0	112	104	125	98	129	98	98	105	113	98	91	88
Jul	101.3	103.9	86	103.5	112	104	126	95	126	101	97	104	112	98	104	89
Aug	100.5	102.9	88	102.3	111	103	124	91	127	98	97	104	113	97	89	95
Sep	102.1	104.8	89	103.9	113	103	129	103	133	99	95	104	113	97	94	91
Oct	102.5	105.0	91	104.3	109	104	118	102	128	100	95	105	114	96	98	94
Nov	102.6	105.2	94	103.8	110	103	121	102	134	99	94	105	114	96	99	90
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	+1.6	+2.0	+4.4	+1.7	−0.8	—	−1.8	+7.8	+3.6	−0.1	−2.8	+0.2	+0.9	−1.6	+2.2	+0.9
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	+1.8	+3.1	+5.8	+3.3	+0.3	+0.6	−0.3	+13.4	+11.3	−0.1	−5.5	+8.5	+4.4	−2.8	+1.9	—

	Manufacturing industries (continued)													Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc							
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1971	91.3	89.8	95.8	102.2	100.6	103.0	105.4	108.1	107.0	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.8	103.0	103.9
1972	91.4	89.4	97.3	104.5	102.9	104.5	107.8	115.2	115.1	115.3	113.5	102.6	104.3	104.4	111.4
1973	100.0	97.3	108.5	110.1	108.6	101.1	114.6	126.0	123.7	129.5	132.6	112.1	116.6	107.5	118.1
1974	91.7	87.7	104.2	103.1	99.2	94.9	112.2	116.6	108.3	129.5	112.1	108.8	114.5	98.2	118.6
1975	78.6	74.2	92.2	99.5	93.8	92.9	112.2	107.7	99.5	120.5	110.5	95.7	105.5	93.5	120.5
1975 1st qtr	91.0	88.6	98.7	101.1	94.1	89.9	117.1	111.9	103.2	125.6	112.1	101.1	109.2	93.4	122.3
2nd qtr	75.7	70.8	90.8	98.6	93.7	90.0	109.8	105.6	98.4	116.9	109.5	94.8	103.0	93.8	119.2
3rd qtr	72.1	66.6	89.2	98.7	92.8	93.4	111.7	106.0	98.1	118.3	109.1	93.1	104.5	94.4	117.0
4th qtr	75.5	70.8	90.2	99.5	94.5	98.2	110.0	107.4	98.5	121.3	111.1	93.8	105.4	92.5	123.6
1976 1st qtr	83.4	79.9	94.2	102.4	98.6	98.6	110.7	111.1	104.2	121.9	110.5	96.1	111.0	93.4	127.3
2nd qtr	88.0	85.1	96.8	98.6	95.0	93.8	106.7	108.5	100.9	120.5	109.8	98.3	111.5	90.8	121.1
3rd qtr	84.8	81.7	94.3	101.5	97.0	100.5	110.9	112.6	102.8	128.0	110.3	96.9	112.3	86.7	118.2
1975 Sep	71	66	88	98	92	93	111	107	99	120	109	94	110		120
Oct	81	77	92	100	94	98	111	108	99	121	111	95	103		123
Nov	78	74	89	101	96	98	109	106	97	121	112	93	109		123
Dec	68	61	89	98	93	98	110	108	99	122	110	93	105		125
1976 Jan	88	86	95	107	104	99	115	107	102	115	112	96	108		118
Feb	82	78	94	102	99	99	110	113	104	125	112	97	112		134
Mar	80	75	93	98	93	99	107	114	106	125	108	96	113		129
Apr	85	82	96	98	96	94	104	109	102	119	110	99	111		123
May	103	101	108	103	99	94	114	109	101	123	116	99	113		120
Jun	76	73	87	94	90	94	103	108	100	120	104	96	110		120
Jul	86	82	97	100	96	100	108	113	101	132	109	98	107		117
Aug	86	85	91	101	97	100	110	110	102	124	110	96	108		116
Sep	82	78	94	103	98	100	114	114	105	128	111	96	122		122
Oct	90	86	101	104	99	99	115	109	101	120	120	100	117		119
Nov	82	80	88	103	99	99	112	113	103	127	112	97	123		125
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	+2.2	+1.9	+3.1	+5.0	+4.6	+1.4	+6.4	+1.2	+2.3	−0.1	+6.2	+0.8	+11.2		+3.6
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	+10.4	+12.5	+5.3	+4.0	+4.7	+3.2	+3.1	+4.3	+4.7	+3.9	+3.5	+4.1	+12.3		−0.1

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.

Index of industrial production for Scotland

The index of industrial production in Scotland in the second quarter of 1976 is provisionally estimated at 107.1 (1970=100). This represents an increase of over 2 per cent on the level of a year earlier and compares with a corresponding increase in total UK production of just under 1 per cent.

The latest quarterly estimate of total Scottish industrial production confirms that, by the second quarter of 1976, industrial activity in Scotland had emerged from the low level of 1975. The upswing in the index for manufacturing industries to the second quarter of 1976 was particularly marked, showing a rise of 3 per cent on the same quarter in 1975.

The indices of production for the second quarter of 1976 for construction and mining and quarrying were little changed from the levels of a year earlier. Over the same period, the index for gas, electricity and water rose by about 3 per cent.

Industrial analysis

Production in most industrial groups within the manufacturing sector in Scotland appears to have changed comparatively little between the second quarter of 1975 and the second quarter of 1976. But the index for mechanical and instrument engineering production was 19 per cent up on the level of a year earlier, and that for chemicals and coal and petroleum products had risen by 23 per cent.

The index of vehicles production (which includes the output of the shipbuilding and aircraft industries) recovered slightly between the first two quarters of 1976, but the level of the second quarter was 23 per cent down on that for the same period in 1975.

The index of production for mechanical and instrument engineering has been rising steadily since 1972 and in the second quarter of 1976 passed the 1970 level of production in this group for the first time. Three main industries have contributed to the 19 per cent increase in output between the second quarter of 1975 and the second quarter of 1976. These are construction and earthmoving equipment, industrial plant and steelwork and scientific and industrial instruments and systems.

The rise in the index for chemicals and coal and petroleum products reflects an upturn in the output of almost all the industries in this group. As a result, the index has regained the previous peak levels of 1974.

The performance of the vehicles index in the first two quarters of 1976 similarly reflects the experience of most of the industries in this group. Only locomotives and railway track equipment and the trailers, caravans and freight containers industry showed any

Index of industrial production for Scotland: quarterly results

Quarterly series are not seasonally adjusted (1970 = 100)

			Manufacturing industries						
							Engineering and allied industries		
1968 SIC	Total: all industries	Mining and quarrying	Total: all manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals and coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Total	Mechanical and instrument engineering	Electrical engineering
Weight per 1,000	1,000	30	729	170	55	53	270	128	50
1970	100.0	100	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	98.8	107	98.4	105	110	88	93	85	103
1972	100.8	95	99.5	109	122	86	90	77	111
1973	109.8	106	107.2	114	124	96	97	82	137
1974	107.4	98	107.9	119	134	90	102	83	158
1975	104.4	110	102.9	118	111	75	102	87	143
1973 1st quarter	109.1	103	104.0	107	117	98	97	81	136
2nd quarter	110.6	119	107.7	115	124	100	96	86	120
3rd quarter	104.4	104	102.7	115	125	92	83	76	129
4th quarter	115.1	98	114.5	121	130	96	107	85	165
1974 1st quarter	105.3	68	103.9	113	137	84	97	77	157
2nd quarter	110.3	113	111.7	119	139	98	106	87	156
3rd quarter	101.4	100	103.0	120	132	82	92	78	147
4th quarter	112.7	110	113.1	124	127	96	112	92	173
1975 1st quarter	105.5	109	102.9	113	113	88	103	87	143
2nd quarter	104.8	118	103.3	116	112	78	103	86	145
3rd quarter	98.1	93	97.4	119	99	64	95	83	131
4th quarter	109.1	120	107.9	124	118	68	109	93	152
1976 1st quarter	104.6	109	101.0	110	130	73	100	96	137
2nd quarter	107.1	118	106.4	119	138	75	104	102	142
% change									
1976 Q2 on 1975 Q2	+2.2	0	+3.0	+3	+23	−4	+1	+19	−2
1975 on 1974	−2.8	+12	−4.6	−1	−17	−17	0	+5	−9

Index of industrial production for the UK: quarterly results

1970	100.0	100	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	100.5	100	99.7	101	102	91	99	100	102
1972	102.7	84	102.4	105	108	91	100	95	110
1973	110.3	93	111.0	109	120	100	108	103	125
1974	106.4	79	108.2	110	125	92	107	104	121
1975	101.2	86	101.7	109	113	79	102	102	113
1975 1st quarter	106.4	93	106.7	105	118	94	109	107	123
2nd quarter	100.6	86	101.5	108	113	76	102	104	110
3rd quarter	94.1	71	94.9	109	106	66	93	94	105
4th quarter	103.9	94	103.6	112	116	79	102	103	114
1976 1st quarter	104.6	92	103.7	104	123	87	102	102	112
2nd quarter	101.4	90	102.9	113	125	87	99	98	108
% change									
1976 Q2 on 1975 Q2	+0.8	+5	+1.4	+5	+11	+14	−3	−6	−2
1975 on 1974	−4.9	+9	−6.0	−1	−10	−14	−5	−2	−7

improvement on production levels from a year earlier.

The index for construction fell by 1 per cent between the second quarters of 1975 and 1976. This fall was the result of a decline in output in public housing, offset to some extent by an increase in output in private housing and by labour directly employed by the public sector (ie by local authorities, public utilities and government departments). The remaining component series for the construction sector showed little movement between the quarters concerned.

The mining and quarrying index for the second quarter of 1976 stood at the same level as a year earlier. This was the net result of a slight increase in coal production, a slight fall in the production of chalk, clay, sand and gravel and a levelling off in the employment series associated with petroleum and natural gas. The increase in the gas, electricity and water index of 3 per cent in the year to the second quarter of 1976 was accounted for by gas and water: the amount of electricity sent out remained at about the same level.

Note

The index of industrial production for Scotland (based on 1970 = 100) was first published in the *Scottish Economic Bulletin* no. 10 in July 1976. This article is one of a series providing the latest figures on a quarterly basis. The complete series will also be published in each issue of the *Scottish Economic Bulletin* showing the latest figures at the time of going to press. For details of the sources and methods of the index of industrial production, reference should be made to the relevant article in *Bulletin* no. 10.

The index is not seasonally adjusted. Because of fluctuations from quarter to quarter within a year resulting from, for example, the incidence of holidays, comparisons for one quarter with the immediately previous quarter do not reflect the underlying trend; more meaningful comparisons – as used in this article – are between one quarter and the same quarter of the previous year and, of course, between one year and another. The UK unadjusted index (based, like the Scottish index, on 1970) is the most relevant for comparison with the Scottish index.

The results for the latest quarter should be treated with caution as they are liable to revision as later and fuller information becomes available.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Manufacturing industries (cont.)
Engineering etc (cont.)

Vehicles (incl. ships and aircraft)	Metal goods n.e.s.	Textiles, leather and clothing	Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc.	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Construction	Gas, electricity and water	1968 SIC	
65	27	67	24	19	54	17	170	71	Weight per 1,000	
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1970	
98	100	103	95	100	94	104	99	99	1971	
89	111	107	102	108	94	108	104	110	1972	
92	104	117	99	135	102	136	115	126	1973	
89	114	106	99	122	91	117	100	123	1974	
95	114	101	98	110	79	104	102	123	1975	
96	103	116	94	129	98	122	114	152	1973	1st quarter
92	106	121	103	133	101	139	120	114		2nd quarter
77	99	109	97	130	97	139	118	89		3rd quarter
104	109	121	104	148	110	144	107	147		4th quarter
88	108	101	92	126	89	115	102	144	1974	1st quarter
99	121	114	103	130	95	117	105	108		2nd quarter
70	109	103	97	113	88	115	100	90		3rd quarter
100	119	107	105	121	94	122	95	151		4th quarter
95	119	96	98	115	82	110	97	151	1975	1st quarter
98	117	102	101	110	78	103	106	113		2nd quarter
86	101	101	90	86	75	99	105	90		3rd quarter
103	119	106	102	119	83	104	99	141		4th quarter
71	121	100	96	113	76	98	97	158	1976	1st quarter
75	117	105	100	112	80	102	105	116		2nd quarter
–23	0	+3	–1	+2	+3	–1	–1	+3		
+7	0	–5	–1	–10	–13	–11	+2	0		

Quarterly series are not seasonally adjusted (1970 = 100)

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1970	
100	94	102	108	103	97	100	103	104	1971	
102	96	105	115	114	103	104	104	111	1972	
105	103	110	126	133	112	117	108	118	1973	
102	104	103	117	112	109	114	98	119	1974	
97	95	100	108	110	96	106	93	120	1975	
104	104	100	111	112	100	108	91	142	1975	1st quarter
97	96	100	109	112	95	104	95	110		2nd quarter
88	86	94	102	103	91	100	97	92		3rd quarter
98	92	104	110	115	96	110	92	137		4th quarter
99	96	103	109	112	97	110	91	149	1976	1st quarter
98	90	98	111	110	98	110	92	111		2nd quarter
+1	–6	–2	+2	–2	+3	+6	–3	+1		
–5	–9	–3	–8	–2	–12	–7	–5	+1		

Index of industrial production for Wales

Provisional results of the index of industrial production for Wales indicate that output during the third quarter of 1976 remained almost at the same level as that reached in the first half of the year. Thus, as in the United Kingdom as a whole, the underlying level of industrial output has changed little during the first nine months of 1976. Nevertheless at 101.0 the All-Industries index for Wales is 5.8 per cent higher than that for the corresponding period of 1975. Over the same period the change in the United Kingdom index has been 2 per cent.

Output in the manufacturing sector is provisionally estimated to have fallen by 1.1 per cent between the second and third quarters but within the sector there are some more notable changes. Metal manufacturing declined by 7.7 per cent (ferrous metals fell by 7.7 per cent and non-ferrous by 8.1 per cent). The engineering group as a whole remains almost unchanged at 108; the index for electrical engineering rose by 10.6 per cent but vehicles fell by 4.5 per cent and mechanical and instrument engineering by 4.7 per cent.

The construction index, which declined by over 8 per cent between the first two quarters of the year, recovered slightly in the third and now stands at 82. The utilities index, however, maintained its level of the previous quarter.

A market sector analysis of the index is also presented. The con-

Index of industrial production for Wales

Seasonally adjusted indices (1970 = 100)

1968 SIC	1970 weights per thousand	Annual indices					Quarterly indices 1975				1976		
		1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr (1)
Total: all industries	1,000	100.1	107.2	112.6	107.0	98.9	106.8	96.9	95.5	96.2	101.6	101.2	101.0
Mining and quarrying	85	101	81	82	62	73	76	72	70	73	68	65	65
Total: all manufacturing industries	701	101.0	108.5	116.9	111.5	101.9	109.8	98.6	99.7	99.6	106.0	107.1	105.9
Food, drink and tobacco	40	106	112	120	134	147	148	148	150	143	141	150	151
Coal and petroleum products	37	103	98	106	128	99	104	104	94	95	100	99	100
Chemicals and allied industries	47	118	125	131	142	130	127	121	125	145	152	150	153
Metal manufacture	199	94	99	102	86	72	95	60	65	67	81	89	83
Ferrous	166	94	101	99	79	65	92	51	56	60	71	78	72
Non-ferrous	33	94	89	114	121	108	112	106	110	102	135	148	136
Engineering and allied industries: total	222	101	106	118	118	114	117	116	112	111	113	107	108
Mechanical and instrument engineering	62	96	96	110	115	107	107	111	108	100	115	106	101
Electrical engineering	56	104	113	140	137	146	147	153	143	142	147	141	156
Vehicles (including aircraft and ship-building)	65	106	112	110	109	103	106	99	99	107	93	88	84
Metal goods not elsewhere specified	39	97	103	113	113	99	107	101	96	91	92	93	92
Textiles, leather and clothing	59	104	127	123	107	96	94	98	101	92	97	90	93
Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc	20	127	133	152	135	119	121	120	130	106	114	108	106
Timber, furniture, etc	13	109	128	150	124	130	123	127	131	138	137	156	156
Paper, printing and publishing	31	86	98	116	90	72	80	67	70	70	72	75	73
Other manufacturing industries	32	103	125	147	145	128	131	121	132	129	142	150	152
Construction	146	99	103	102	92	90	98	93	85	82	85	78	82
Gas, electricity and water	68	92	135	130	149	120	132	119	107	121	133	135	136

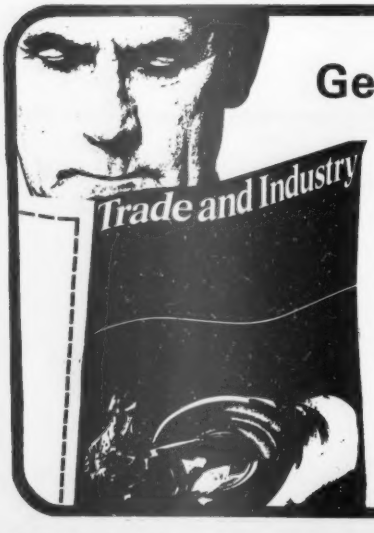
Source: Welsh Office.
(1) Provisional.

Index of industrial production for Wales Market sector analysis

Seasonally adjusted indices (1970 = 100)

	1970 weights per thousand	Annual indices					Quarterly indices 1975				1976		
		1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr (1)
Consumer goods sector	137	104.6	119.7	136.1	127.0	125.0	126.8	126.2	125.3	121.6	118.6	133.1	136.5
Intermediate goods sector	594	99.2	106.0	107.6	101.8	89.8	99.5	86.5	84.8	88.4	96.7	96.2	95.2
Investment goods sector	123	101.5	102.6	124.2	128.8	123.4	125.2	122.5	123.1	122.9	119.4	107.2	108.3

Source: Welsh Office.
(1) Provisional.



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sumer goods sector, after rising sharply between the first and second quarters, increased by a further 2.6 per cent in the third. The intermediate goods sector (including the important coal and steel industries), however, remains below the average 1970 level, at 95.2. The investment goods sector, having fallen markedly between the first and second quarters, registered only a marginal change during the three months July to September.

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PQ339.7	Food and drink processing machinery and packaging and bottling machinery for third quarter 1976
PQ353	Surgical instruments and appliances for third quarter 1976
PQ361	Electrical machinery for second quarter 1976
PQ381.1	Motor vehicle manufacturing for fourth quarter 1975 and first quarter 1976
PQ399.2	Metal windows and door frames for third quarter 1976
PQ399.6	Metal hollow-ware for third quarter 1976
PQ399.8	Needles, pins, fish-hooks and other metal small-wares for second quarter 1976
PQ399.12	Miscellaneous metal goods for second quarter 1976
PQ416	Rope, twine and net for third quarter 1976
PQ417.2	Warp knitting for third quarter 1976
PQ423	Textile finishing for third quarter 1976
PQ429.1	Asbestos for third quarter 1976
PQ446	Hats, caps and millinery for third quarter 1976
PQ473	Bedding and soft furnishings for third quarter 1976
PQ485	Newspapers and periodicals for third quarter 1976
PQ491	Rubber manufactures for second quarter 1976
PQ494.1	Toys, games and children's carriages for third quarter 1976
PQ601	Gas for third quarter 1976

Service and distributive series

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SD1	Food shops for November 1976
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SD4	Miscellaneous non-food shops for November 1976
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SD6	Instalment credit business of finance houses for November 1976
SD8	Instalment credit business of retailers for November 1976

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Hosiery and other knitted goods: index of production

In the three months ended October 1976 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (including knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 7 per cent more than in the three months ended October 1975.

The seasonally adjusted figures for 1975 are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974 and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 have been incorporated. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Hosiery and other knitted goods

1970 = 100

1968	88
1969	98
1970	100
1971	99
1972	99
1973	103
1974	100
1975	96

Including warp knitting

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	91	97
2nd quarter	103	105
3rd quarter	97	101
4th quarter	108	95
1975 1st quarter	87	96
2nd quarter	95	94
3rd quarter	94	98
4th quarter	109	97
1976 1st quarter	90	98
2nd quarter p	94	95
3rd quarter p	101	105
1975 April	89	92
May	92	95
June	104	97
July	84	97
August	87	98
September	109	98
October	121	100
November	123	101
December	84	90
1976 January	85	106
February	94	97
March	91	90
April p	91	99
May p	96	98
June p	95	88
July p	92	106
August p	97	108
September p	113	101
October p	130	107

p = provisional.

Tel. 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Sales by wholesale textile houses in November

Sales by wholesale textile houses in November showed an increase of 13 per cent on a year earlier, compared with an increase of 4 per cent in September and a decrease of 4 per cent in October.

The value of stocks at the end of November showed a decrease of 1 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*–3*	..	..
1967	104	*–5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*–5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1975	147	*1*	..	..
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*–3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*–2*
3rd quarter	146	*–1*	193	*–1*
4th quarter	165	*–5*	224	*13*
1976 1st quarter	133	*–8*	234	*7*
2nd quarter	127	*–6*	212	*8*
3rd quarter	149	*2*	204	*6*
1975 November	150	*–3*	231	*4*
December	153	*–4*	224	*13*
1976 January	86	*–12*	213	*4*
February	138	*–11*	227	*6*
March	174	*–1*	234	*7*
April	136	*–9*	208	*7*
May	128	*—*	217	*2*
June	119	*–9*	212	*8*
July	115	*–8*	221	*6*
August	137	*9*	216	*5*
September	194	*4*	204	*6*
October	184	*–4*	208	*6*
November	169	*–13*	229	*–1*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks†
	Nov 1976	Jan-Nov 1976	Nov 1976
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	15	9	11
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	48	9	4
Women's underwear	11	–9	–6
Women's hose and children's socks	11	–5	–2
Women's millinery	–41	–19	–7
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	20	1	5
Children's wear	4	2	24
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	27	–1	–10
Gloves	15	3	18
Piece-goods and nets	–25	3	6
Household textiles	33	9	13
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	10	–5	–6
Boots and shoes	36	5	–10
Total†	13	–2	–1

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Note

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries

In the three months ended October 1976, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been 3 per cent higher than in the preceding three months while net new orders were 2 per cent lower. Orders-on-hand at the end of October 1976 were 1 per cent higher than the end-July 1976 level. (These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
	December 1969 = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	
1968	107		100		97	
1969	100		97		97	
1970	103		102		100	
1971	119		108		104	
1972	125		110		109	
1973	155		123		117	
1974	145		115		114	
1975	142		118		115	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	164	161	111	115	107	108
2nd quarter	171	149	122	113	113	115
3rd quarter	137	143	96	113	115	117
4th quarter	145	145	129	118	122	118
1975 1st quarter	135	139	116	124	116	121
2nd quarter	165	151	133	119	114	112
3rd quarter	129	141	97	114	114	115
4th quarter	142	149	128	117	116	112
1976 1st quarter	126	130	109	113	113	114
2nd quarter p	154	140	131	120	110	113
3rd quarter p	134	147	106	126	118	120
1974 April	171	163	133	122	115	114
May	182	155	134	109	108	113
June	171	149	100	107	117	118
July	156	149	85	113	112	116
August	143	143	86	112	105	118
September	137	143	116	114	129	116
October	142	140	150	115	141	120
November	152	141	153	122	130	118
December	145	145	85	116	96	115
1975 January	138	137	101	119	103	124
February	134	136	121	123	125	122
March	135	139	124	129	120	119
April	148	147	135	112	118	107
May	167	149	147	120	109	115
June	165	151	116	125	114	115
July	145	145	84	112	110	114
August	132	139	84	109	103	117
September	129	141	123	122	128	116
October	135	140	154	118	135	115
November	144	140	138	110	121	110
December	142	149	91	123	92	111
1976 January	129	128	94	111	102	123
February	128	130	115	117	116	113
March	126	130	117	111	119	107
April p	137	136	133	121	109	108
May p	157	140	155	127	116	123
June p	154	140	104	113	107	108
July p	143	143	99	133	114	118
August p	132	139	85	110	105	119
September p	134	147	134	133	136	123
October p	139	144	158	121	139	119

Inquiries: 01-212 0116.

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in February

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in February. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method of release	Source
February			
2 Wed	Capital issues and redemptions during the month of January	PN	Bank of England
	UK official reserves (Jan)	PN	HM Treasury
3 Thurs	Quarterly estimates of employees in employment (Sept)	Gazette*	Department of Employment
	Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Dec)		
7 Mon	Wholesale price index numbers (Jan – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail sales (Dec – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Dec)	PN	Department of Industry
8 Tues	CBI Industrial Trends Survey (Jan)	PN	CBI
	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Jan)	PN	Department of Industry
9 Wed	UK bank's eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Jan)	PN	Bank of England
	London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Jan)	PN	CLCB
	Central Government financial transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Jan)	PN	HM Treasury
	Slum clearance (4th qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Housing starts and completions (Dec)		
	House renovation grants approved (Dec)		
10 Thurs	Finished steel consumption and stock changes (4th qtr – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
11 Fri	Building Societies receipts and loans (Jan)	PN	BSA
	Usable steel production (Jan)	PN	BSC/BISPA
14 Mon	Turnover of the catering trades (Dec)	PN	Department of Industry
	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Jan)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
	Turnover of the motor trades (4th qtr)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail sales (Jan – prov).	PN	Department of Industry
15 Tues	Index of industrial production (Dec)	PN	CSO
16 Wed	Monthly index of average earnings (Dec)	PN	Department of Employment
	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Jan)		
17 Thurs	Buildings Societies: Mortgage Survey 5% sample survey results (4th qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Consumers' expenditure (4th qtr – 2nd preliminary estimate)	PN	CSO
18 Fri	Manufacturing industries' capital expenditure by regions (2nd qtr)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry
	Retail prices index (Jan)	PN	Department of Employment
20 Sun	National Savings monthly progress report (Jan	PN	National Savings Committee
21 Mon	London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Jan)	PN	Bank of England
	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Jan)	PN	Bank of England
	Preliminary estimate of gross domestic product based on output data (4th qtr)	PN	CSO
22 Tues	Unemployment (Feb – prov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Unfilled vacancies (Feb – prov.)		
23 Wed	New vehicle registrations (Jan)	PN	Department of Transport
24 Thurs	Construction – new orders (Dec)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Energy Trends	PN	Department of Energy
	Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (4th qtr – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Car and commercial vehicle production (Jan – final)	PN	Department of Industry
25 Fri	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Nov)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry
28 Mon	Bricks and cement production (Jan)	PN	Department of the Environment

PN = Press Notice

* Because of industrial action by some staff in the Department of Employment Group, some statistics for December 1976 are not available for publication in the *Gazette*.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 21 January 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Movietone News 2485	BR/E 38846/23/1/82	8	21 January	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			FOREIGN		
Norman . . . Is That You?	F/38940	92	17 January	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	MGM Incorporated, California
Live Like A Cop – Die Like A Man	F/38941	94	19 January	Variety Film Distributors Ltd	TDI Cinematographica, Rome
Kung Fu Streetfighter	F/38942	88	21 January	Eural International Film Distributors Ltd	Toei Co Ltd, Tokyo, Japan
Blood of the Dragon	F/38943	73	21 January	Eural International Film Distributors Ltd	Toei Co Ltd, Tokyo, Japan

Amendment to the Register

The playing time of the film 'Celestine, Maid at your Service' (EC 37893/19/1/80) registered on 15 January 1975 has been amended to (a) 79 minutes, (b) 64 minutes.

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Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (A)	16 July 1976
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	21 Jan. 1977
trends in invisible transactions	22 Oct. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 May 1976
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
By regions	19 Nov. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	14 Jan. 1977
Census of production (A)	This week
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	12 Nov. 1976
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	21 Jan. 1977
N. Ireland (M)	7 Jan. 1977
rate of return on capital (A)	8 Oct. 1976
Construction work overseas (A)	15 Oct. 1976
EEC economic indicators	14 Jan. 1977
Energy trends (M)	14 Jan. 1977
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	14 Jan. 1977
cinema admissions and takings (M)	7 Jan. 1977
overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	27 Aug. 1976
household consumption (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	14 Jan. 1977
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	7 Jan. 1977
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
Scotland	This week
Wales	This week
Insolvencies (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	8 Oct. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	25 June 1976
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
production (M)	14 Jan. 1977
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
Metal-working machine tools (M)	7 Jan. 1977
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	7 Jan. 1977
estimated figures (M)	14 Jan. 1977
motor trade turnover (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Office development permits (Q)	26 Nov. 1976
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	16 July 1976
analysis of trends (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
ten-year back run (A)	12 Mar. 1976
export prospects (Q)	This week
invoicing in foreign currencies	7 Jan. 1977
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Regional development grants (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	This week
Research and development expenditure	26 Nov. 1976
Retail prices index (M)	This week
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	14 Jan. 1977
provisional figures (M)	21 Jan. 1977
sales, N. Ireland (M)	14 Jan. 1977
stocks (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	25 June 1976
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	9 July 1976
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	This week
retail (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	14 Jan. 1977
carpet sales (M)	21 Jan. 1977
cotton industry production (M)	14 Jan. 1977
hosiery production (M)	This week
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	This week
wholesale houses' sales (M)	This week
wool exports (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
wool output (M)	14 Jan. 1977
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	17 Dec. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	14 Jan. 1977
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	21 Jan. 1977

Departmental organisations etc.

British commercial representation overseas	8 Oct. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	1 Oct. 1976
ECGD local offices	10 Dec. 1976
Guide to departments	3 Dec. 1976
Official Receivers' offices	15 Oct. 1976
Programme of trade promotions	26 Nov. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	This week

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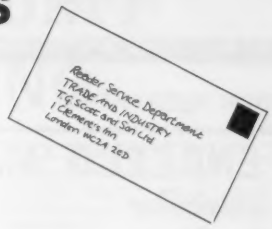

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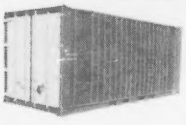

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